



The Call of *Grace*

Grace Lutheran Church

6601 North 9th Avenue – Pensacola, FL 32504

(850) 476-5667 – www.GracePensacola.org

December 2020

From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear family and friends of Grace,

Advent and Christmas are upon us! This year, however, things are not quite the same as any other year in our lifetime due to Covid-19 and all its unwanted restrictions and effects on our lives.

Mary and Joseph were no strangers to affliction and suffering either, as they made their way to the ancestral home of Joseph in order to be counted for the census. Think of how the tongues must have wagged with young Mary expecting a child before the wedding to Joseph took place. Think of poor Joseph, who knew one thing for sure - that he was not the father of the Child Mary was carrying.

It was time for Mary to deliver the child, but that didn't matter to the Roman government. The holy couple had to go to Bethlehem despite all the hardship that would be experienced on the way. As you know, when they arrived – they couldn't even find anywhere to lodge – even though it was painfully obvious that Mary was about to give birth. "No room in the inn." Can you imagine the thoughts that must have been running through their minds about then?

Ah... but here is where we need to be cautious. God Himself had sent an angel to Mary to explain to her what was going to happen when Jesus was conceived in her by the Holy Spirit. So Mary trusted. So Mary had faith. So Mary had peace.

Joseph, too, was told by an angel not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. Joseph believed. He trusted God. And Joseph had peace.

They journeyed to Bethlehem with and in that trust that God – despite how things appeared on the outside – was calling all the shots (as He always has, does, and will continue to) and that there was nothing happening that was taking God off guard.

So they went – trusting God. They didn't focus on their sufferings or on what they did not have, but they focused on what they KNEW from what God had told them. And then it happened as God had planned long before.

(continued...)

What are you and I to do with a “Covid Christmas” this year? May I suggest we respond as Mary and Joseph did – with faith, with trust, with hope. God is the same God as He was then. He’s got a plan that He made before the foundations of the earth, and He knew that this year was coming. He’s not taken by surprise!

God is giving us a gift in being able to put our trust more firmly in Him and His love through our current sufferings. The question is: will you receive this gift? Do not focus on Covid – focus on the Gift of Jesus Christ – the Savior of the world! When we focus on Him – then we will receive His peace and even His joy as we celebrate the Reason for the Season in a time of suffering and uncertainty.

Joining Jesus on His Mission,

Pastor Huesmann

AMAZING GRACE Christian Preschool

Support Amazing Grace Christian Preschool **Through AmazonSmile**

What is Amazon Smile?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization selected by customers.

How does AmazonSmile work?

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from over one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customers selected charitable organization. **Search: Amazing**

Grace Christian Preschool

Is there any cost to charitable organizations or to customers?

No. There is no cost to charitable organizations or to AmazonSmile customers. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

Do you charge any administrative fees or take any deduction from the donation amount?

No. Charities must register to receive donations and have a valid bank account to which we can route donations, but there is no charge to participate and we do not deduct any fees from the donation amount.

December Calendar

Calendar Key:

S=Sanctuary N=Narthex FH=Fellowship Hall
 WC=Welcome Center CB=Community Building Y=Youth
 K=Kitchen OC=Office Conference LS=Lord's Supper
 SC= Sanctuary Conference PK= PreK Room

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1:15pm Pre-K 6:00pm Men's BSF CB	2 7:00am AA Mtg CB	3 10:00am Backpack	4 7:00am AA Mtg CB 7:00pm AA Meeting CB	5
6 8:00 am Traditional Service 9:15 am Bible Class 10:30 am Contemporary Service 5:30 AA Mtg. CB	7 7:00am AA Mtg CB 5:30pm Christian Yoga FH 6:30pm Elders Mtg OC 6:45pm Women's Bible Study S 7:00pm AA Mtg CB	8 6:30pm BLL Mtg FH 6:00pm Men's BSF CB	9 7:00am AA Mtg CB	10 10:00am Backpack	11 7:00am AA Mtg CB 7:00pm AA Meeting CB	12
13 8:00 am Traditional Service 9:15am Bible Class 10:30 am Contemporary Service 5:30 AA Mtg. CB	14 7:00am AA Mtg CB 5:30pm Christian Yoga FH 6:45pm Women's Bible Study S 7:00pm AA Meeting CB	15 6:30pm BLL Meeting 6:00pm Men's BSF CB	16 7:00am AA Mtg CB	17 10:00am Backpack	18 7:00am AA Mtg CB 7:00pm AA Meeting CB	19 CAROLING 4-7
20 8:00 am Traditional Service 9:15am Bible Class 10:30 am Contemporary Service 5:30 AA Mtg. CB	21 7:00am AA Mtg CB 10:00am Book Club OC 5:30pm Christian Yoga FH 6:45pm Women's Bible Study S 7:00pm AA Meeting CB	22 6:00pm Men's BSF CB	23 7:00am AA Mtg CB	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00pm Family Worship 7:00pm Candle- light Worship	25 CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 8:00 am Traditional Service 9:15am Bible Class 10:30 am Contemporary Service 5:30 AA Mtg. CB	28 7:00am AA Mtg CB 5:30pm Christian Yoga FH 6:45pm Women's Bible Study S 7:00pm AA Meeting CB	29 6:00pm Men's BSF CB	30 7:00am AA Mtg CB	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE OFFICE CLOSED		



Facilities Report:

Happy December, the month of our Savior's birth. As we prepare to celebrate this season, I wanted to give you a quick update of our facilities. We did receive some damage from Hurricane Sally and have taken steps to remedy those issues. First, we lost the roofing material on the main sanctuary building. We have secured the services of a roofing company and the material is onsite. The sanctuary roof has been covered with tarping to prevent more water leakage. We are waiting for our insurance companies adjuster to come and review all the damage. There is damage to the sanctuary ceiling, the front wall of the church and some guttering and fascia on the Fellowship Hall. Once he has assessed all the damage, we will move forward with repairs. We will keep the congregation updated as we move forward.

Most of the large projects around the facility have been completed with the exception of fencing around the Youth and Yard building and the water irrigation system area. This is being requested to protect our property and staff from the homeless population that likes to reside in those areas.

The last item that was completed was the installation of locking thermostat covers in the Fellowship Hall area. This action has resulted in huge saving already. In the first full electric billing cycle since their installation, the electric bill was \$600.00 less than the previous month and a whopping \$937.00 less than the same period one year ago. This should result in tremendous savings throughout the year and help in keeping our operating cost down.

I pray everyone has a joyous Christmas season and a very safe New Year.

Bruce Dietly

Facility Manager

Sunday School

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:

In an abundance of caution, starting this Sunday, November 29th through December 27th it has been decided to cancel Children's Sunday School due to the increase in Covid cases. At this time we anticipate Children's Sunday School beginning January 3, 2021.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

We will resume Adult Sunday School classes December 6th.



Saturday

December 19th

4:00 – 7:00 P.M.

Followed by Chili cook-off



Don Butler would like to extend a thank you to the congregation for all the words of encouragement through cards and letters, and phone calls.



***Join us Tuesday
mornings from
10:00 until 12:00***

December Birthday's

Asha Philip 12/2
Frank Wilimzig 12/2
Robyn Otwell 12/2
Scott Fisher 12/3
Bruce Dietly 12/6
William McElroy 12/7
Colton Poppe 12/8
Carol Peterson 12/11
Kyle Myers 12/13
Gwen Myers 12/15
Nathan Krause 12/15
Sharon D'Ambra 12/15
Jane Krauss 12/16
Judy Stroh 12/16
Parker Batzloff 12/16
Melissa Holloway 12/19
Dave Hagen 12/22
Karin Moore 12/22
Harriet McClung 12/25
Bruce Flick 12/27
Liz Bohlman 12/27
Paula Herman 12/27
Joshua Evans 12/29
Kirk Klawitter 12/30
Pat Senkow 12/30
Susan Beverly 12/31

December Anniversaries

Bruce & Bonnie Flick 12/4
Rick & Harriet McClung 12/11
Bill & Lara West 12/21
Ed & Liz Bohlman 12/21
Ken & Donna Busarow 12/24
Bruce & Emily Dietly 12/26