

# The Scroll

Grace Lutheran  
Church

December 2019

## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Eternal God, the hope of all humankind,  
you gave us the greatest gift of all in  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Son of God, you came as God's Light to  
shine brightly in the darkness of minds  
and hearts; bathe our world in your Light.

Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, make a way for the  
Good News of your Kingdom to reach every home,  
every heart, everywhere.

Protect and preserve the labourers who  
courageously declare the glory of your Gospel  
throughout the world. Provide for their every need  
and be their strength and joy.

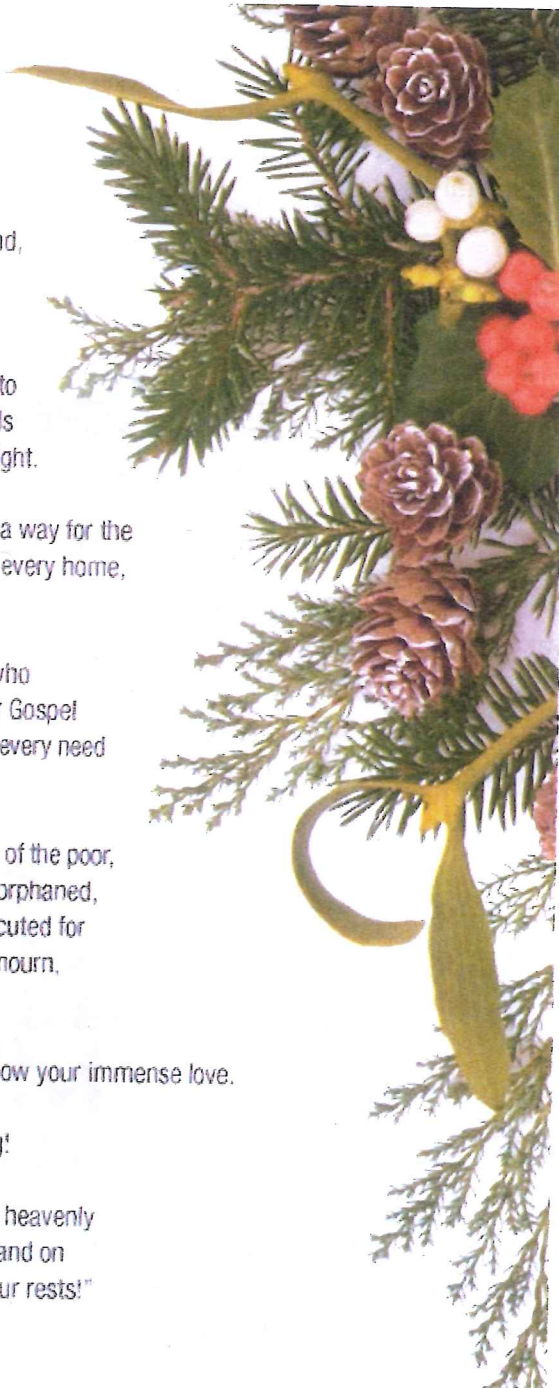
Be the comforter, defender and provider of the poor,  
the helpless, the cold, the hungry, the orphaned,  
the weary, the oppressed, those persecuted for  
their faith in you, the sick, those who mourn,  
the aged and the little children.

Reveal yourself to those who do not know your immense love.

Bless those who rejoice at your coming!

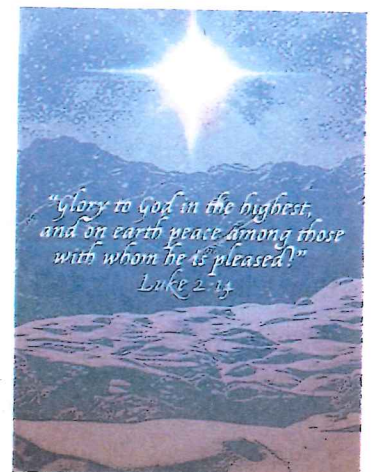
Glorious Lord, we join our voices to the heavenly  
host and say: "Glory to God in heaven, and on  
earth peace to those on whom His favour rests!"

Amen.



### Inside this issue:

NALCW Meeting	2
December Greeters	2
Council Meeting	2
Circle Meetings	2
Attendance & Offerings	2
'Men of Courage'	2
Financial News	3
Acolytes & Video Techs	4
In Our Prayers	4
Youth Meeting	4
'Women of Grace'	4
NALCW News	5
Christmas Bible Verses	5
November Council Minutes	6
Council Minutes, continued	7
Sunday School Program	8
Christmas Eve Worship	8
Council News	8
Grace Council, continued	9
Christmas Carols	10
Joseph's Letter	11
Joseph's Letter, continued	12
Christmas Fun for Kids	13
Grace Cancellation Policy	14
December Calendar	15





The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday December 11th at 8:00 PM. All meetings are open to members of Grace unless otherwise stated.

**North American  
Lutheran Church Women  
of Grace**

The Grace NALCW will meet on Thursday December 12th at 2:00 p.m.

\*See details elsewhere in the edition of the Scroll.

Circle Meetings

**Hope Circle:**

**Rebecca Circle:**

**Mission Circle:** Tuesday December 17th at Sr. Meal Site for Christmas Dinner

GRACE CHURCH

**October 27th**  
Attendance~ 88  
Offering~ \$2,672.00

**November 3rd:**  
Attendance~ 87  
Offering~\$3,171.80

**November 10th:**  
Attendance~ 114  
Offering~ \$2,152.17

**November 17th:**  
Attendance~ 91  
Offering~\$2,775.84

**November 24th:**  
Attendance~106  
Offering~ \$2,416.00

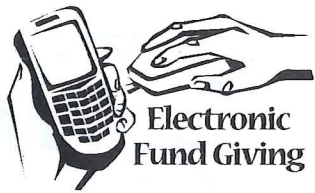
DECEMBER GREETERS

- 1st: Rob & Lori Hole
- 8th: Scott & Kristin Hornbuckle
- 15th: Steve & Dawn Jacobson
- 22nd: Allen & Liz Jenson
- 29th: Nancy Jenson



The Grace 'Men of Courage' will meet on December 3rd and 17th at 5:30 PM, at Grace Church. All men are welcomed to join this group.





Electronic  
Fund Giving



### Giving Options

Not only can you give through your offering envelope on Sunday morning, but our church offers other options to receive your offering:

**Automatic Giving** – You can set up monthly or weekly automatic deductions from your bank account. Contact the church office (218-687-4035) for a form to complete.

**Online Giving** – There are several links throughout our website ([www.gracechurcherskine.org](http://www.gracechurcherskine.org)) that will allow you to give a one-time or regular donation from your bank account, credit card, or debit card.

**Mobile Giving** – You can utilize your mobile device and scan the following code –



### **Benevolence Ideas**

Our church has several special funds to meet needs that can't be met through our General Fund. Currently, these special funds are: Building Improvements, Grace Youth Group, Joy Ride Fund, Oil Candle, Sunday School Improvements/Supplies, Sunday School Outreach, Video Ministry, Vacation Bible School, Worship Hearing Aids, 'Men of Courage' Men's Group, and Shoebox Funds. In addition, our church houses the Grace Food Shelf and we ask for donations on their behalf as well as for the After School Backpack Program. Finally, our church is a part of the Grace Cemetery Association and we ask for donations on their behalf for the maintenance of the Synod, Pioneer, and Fairview Cemeteries in rural Erskine. Please contact Jim Ferden if you have any questions.

### October 2019 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$14,332.05

#### Expenses:

Administrative - \$6,484.88

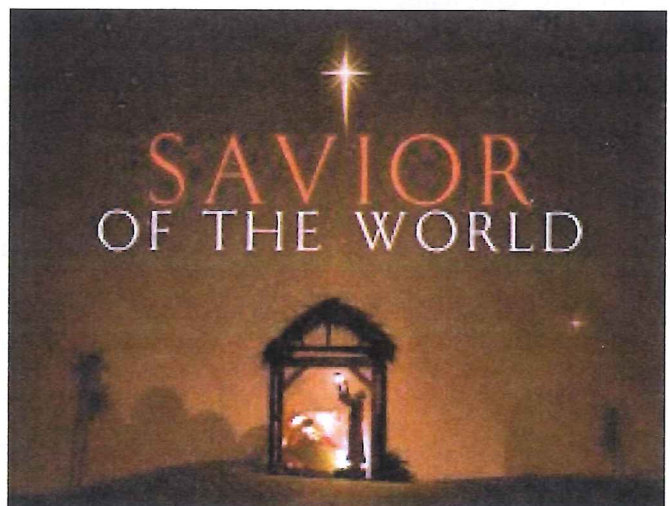
Education - \$132.45

Mission Outreach - \$1,123.00

Pastoral - \$3,691.82

Worship - \$595.11

Total Expenses - \$12,027.26





**DECEMBER ACOLYTES**

1st: Riley Kochman and Carter Fortman

8th: Jayden Haugen and Cameron Svalen

15th: Kianna Tadman and Melissa Pries

22nd: Clare Stuhaug and Kyra Stuhaug

29th: Dylan Hagen and Emily Strom

**DECEMBER VIDEO TECHS**

1st: Charley Carlson

8th: Jareth Walk

15th: Bret DuChamp

22nd: Izabelle Ostenaar

29th: Hunter Westcott



**REMINDER** – Please save your grocery receipts from Groceries Plus in Erskine and Jered's Grocery in McIntosh. Both stores are donating 1 percent of the total purchases to the youth group. There is a container for the receipts at the church in the hallway by the coat racks.



- \* Samantha Lunsetter
- \* Gloria Staehnke
- \* Liz Jenson
- \* Allan Salverson
- \* Shirley Uang
- \* Allen Jenson
- \* Peggy Cook
- \* Michael Jenson
- \* Neva Schepersky
- \* Grace Call Committee



The 'Women of Grace' young women's Bible Study will meet Tuesday December 10th at 7:00 PM. Contact person is Rhonda Breitbach at 218-368-8543, if you have questions.



There will be a meeting for all youth in grades 7 - 12 and their parents on Dec. 11th at 6 pm in the church basement. Supper will be served. We will be planning activities for the rest of the school year.





What blessings we have seen this past month. Our November NALCW meeting let us disburse money to missions in the amount of \$6000. This was mostly from the auction held in October. What a gift to give in the month of our Saviors birth. Thank you to all of you who helped us do this.

Our vote held by post card to active serving group members was finalized with a motion to accept the results. We will now have changes in our new service book in 2020. A letter will be sent to all women of our church with this information as all women members are automatically members of the NALCW. Meetings will start in April in 2020 and meeting time will be at 2:00pm

followed by dessert and coffee. No supper meal will be served. All are welcome to come as before for dessert and coffee. This change is only for our meetings. Funeral serving will remain the same.

We are having a Christmas party to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Sherry Hoas is heading up the celebration. There will be music, a speaker, games, hors d'oeuvres and a \$5.00 gift exchange. This will be held December 12th at 2:00. Please join us and bring a friend.

No business will be conducted.

We will be joining our neighbors at Pioneer Care Center on December 19th at 10:00am for a program of singing, devotions and Bible readings. Please lend your voice to this group when we celebrate the birth of our Savior with them.

May you have a very blessed Christmas.

Dec. 1 John 1: 1-5  
 Dec. 2 Isaiah 9: 2-7  
 Dec. 3 Isaiah 11: 1-10  
 Dec. 4 Jeremiah 33: 14-16  
 Dec. 5 Luke 1: 5-10  
 Dec. 6 Luke 1: 11-17  
 Dec. 7 Luke 1: 18-25  
 Dec. 8 Luke 1: 26-38  
 Dec. 9 Matthew 1:18-21  
 Dec. 10 Matthew 1: 22-26  
 Dec. 11 Luke 1: 39-45  
 Dec. 12 Luke 1: 46-56  
 Dec. 13 Luke 2: 1-5  
 Dec. 14 Luke 2: 6-7  
 Dec. 15 Luke 2: 8-12  
 Dec. 16 Luke 2: 13-14  
 Dec. 17 Luke 2: 15-18  
 Dec. 18 Luke 2: 19-20  
 Dec. 19 Micah 5: 2-5  
 Dec. 20 Matthew 2: 1-2  
 Dec. 21 Matthew 2: 3-6  
 Dec. 22 Matthew 2: 7-8  
 Dec. 23 Matthew 2: 9-12  
 Dec. 24 John 1:14



All women of Grace NALCW are cordially invited to a festive Christmas gathering to commemorate the wonderful service provided to our church through our Ladies Aid. Our Christmas party will be held on Thursday, December 12th at 2:00 p.m. Please bring one Hors d'oeuvre/ Appetizer (hot or cold) to share and a \$5.00 wrapped Christmas gift to be exchanged at the end of the party. We would love to have you bring a friend to share in this wonderful last meeting until our groups begin again in April, 2020 with our new serving schedule. We will have a guest speaker, a guest musician, a couple of games, tasty snacks and treats, the reading of the Christmas story and of course, lots of festive songs sung by all of us to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior! We hope to see you there and don't forget to wear your favorite Christmas sweater, vest or what have you! We will have a wonderful afternoon of fellowship.

To God be the glory!

**GRACE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING**

**November 13, 2019**

**8:00 P.M.**

***'Serving all people by sharing  
God's Word and Gift of Grace'***

**Present:** President Jason Carlson, Nick Walk, Hollie Stewart, Yvonne Halvorson, Gene Haugom, Don Lundin, Jim Ferden, Lori Hole

**Call to Order:** President Jason called the meeting to order.

**Devotions:** Jason lead us in devotions about being content and living with gratitude.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion to approve the amended agenda by Gene. Seconded by Nick. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** Nick moved to approve the October Council minutes. Seconded by Lori. Motion carried.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Yvonne moved to approve. Seconded by Don. Motion carried. (Report on file).

**Treasurer's Report:**

Cash Flow Report

• Undesignated funds available to be used for October's General Fund expenses totaled \$19,156.23. This includes approximately \$4,800 in Love offerings. This amount exceeded October's General Fund expenses totaling \$12,027.26. This excess helped to significantly reduce the

This excess helped to significantly reduce the negative General Fund balance.

• Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$14,332.05. The monthly budget goal is \$17,651.60.

• Noteworthy Other Giving –  
o Love Offering - \$4,815.00.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration – Church & Parsonage Maintenance – paper towels, toilet paper, dish washer detergent, garbage bags, shop vac filter, and deadbolt locks.

Church & Parsonage utilities – Church electricity expense was less due to a previous credit balance. Due to timing, expenses related to telephone and internet were doubled up in October. The fax machine expense was for September only.

Financial Secretary – Quarterly compensation was due.

Miscellaneous – Cost of the various lock services we received due to the recent theft.

Office supplies – copier paper, labels, postcards, and binders

Education –

Miscellaneous – Renewal of video license.

Mission Outreach – Minkota Mission District – 2<sup>nd</sup> half of budgeted donation.

Pastoral – Interim Pastor – salary expense includes Pastor Baker's last paycheck and payment to Pastor Sletto for the month.

Interim Pastor – Health Insurance: health insurance premiums for Pastor Baker for November. I did not plan to make these payments for November, but the NALC benefits office told me I had to or the benefits program would get messed up for Grace in the future. They promised the church would get reimbursed in November once Pastor Baker got his paperwork filed for his new church. Interim Pastor – SS-MC: Includes expenses for both Pastor Baker and Pastor Sletto. Interim Pastor – Travel Expenses: reimbursement to Pastor Sletto for the month.

Budget Report

• We ended the month at approximately 18% or \$35,000 under budget.

All of the major budgeted expense categories ended under budget for the month.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

• October's giving was down slightly from September, but was still fourth highest giving so far in 2019!!

• October 2019 had the fourth highest giving for an October in 9 years!!!

• Nevertheless, year-to-date total giving continues to be behind last year at this time by approximately \$9,500; and is the lowest at this point since 2015.

Balance does not include Love Offering.

*Continued on Page 7*



### **GRACE COUNCIL, continued** History of the General Fund Balance

- All month ends in 2019 to date have been negative.
- However, due to the Love Offering and expenses being down, the negative General Fund balance was reduced significantly from last month.
- This is the second best negative balance for 2019 to date.
- There has not been a positive month end balance since September 2018.
- All but three October's have had a negative balance in the past 9 years.

October 2018 had approximately the same negative balance.

### Account Balances Report

- Building Fund - Reflects the month's donations as well as the expense for the separate elevator phone line for two months. In addition, the purchase of a fire extinguisher for the church (\$20), a new stove for the parsonage (\$700), and roof repairs to the Education Wing (\$6,950) were reflected.
- HS Scholarship Fund – Reflects a donation.
- Oil Fund – Bldg Upkeep reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.
- Oil Fund – Church Emergencies reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue and the transfer of the balance at month end to the General Fund.

- Oil Fund - Missions reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.

- SS Outreach Fund – Reflects the monthly donation and a Christmas donation to Compassion International and Sunday School offerings.

Stained Glass Window Fund – Reflects a donation and a down payment (\$824) to begin work on the project.

### Brovold Investment Valuation Report

- The balance increased slightly over last month.

Highest balance since July 2019.

### Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

Down slightly from last month but still highest balance ever!!

### Other Information

The trustees and I will need to meet before the December meeting to develop the church budget for 2020.

Hollie made a motion to approve. Lori seconded. Motion approved.

**Pastor Report:** No report to approve. Jason did have a discussion with Pastor Sletto regarding church services and his continued service to us. At this point, Pastor is willing to continue serving as originally agreed upon. We so appreciate him.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Stewardship:** They did not meet this month so nothing new.

**Education:** No report submitted.

**Youth Group:** Jim and Hollie met for the purpose of doing some temporary leadership for our Youth. They are going to try to revive the activities of the past except for the Mission Trip. They are going to try to meet with students and parents on December 11. We must have parent participation in order to have an active Youth Group in our parish. We have interested students. 5<sup>th</sup> quarter being planned for Dec 13 contingent upon help from parents. Hoping to do a sledding event, sleep-overs, concerts, etc. Planning to reach out to Vernes Church to offer Youth Group participation to them. Looking at "Feed My Starving Children" in April. Considering doing some Saturday morning nursing home activities. Going to try to help Tina with the calendar distribution when they come.

**NALCW:** Meeting Thurs, Nov 14. Rosilee Larson will sing. Joann will give Bible Study. Lyla will be the new secretary. Hollie will be the treas. Group 9 will be serving. Sherry H. will be putting together a Christmas Party for the ladies. There will be a \$5 gift exchange.

**Trustees:** Cleaning of the furnace rooms has been done and we thank Mary and Doug Bratrud. Furnaces are being worked on and we will get a full report later. Sanctuary lights still need to be replaced. We will need the parsonage interior repainted. Dean will do some of it and we will take care of the rest with others.

*Continued on Page 9*





## Sunday School Program

Sunday

December 15th

10:30 a.m.

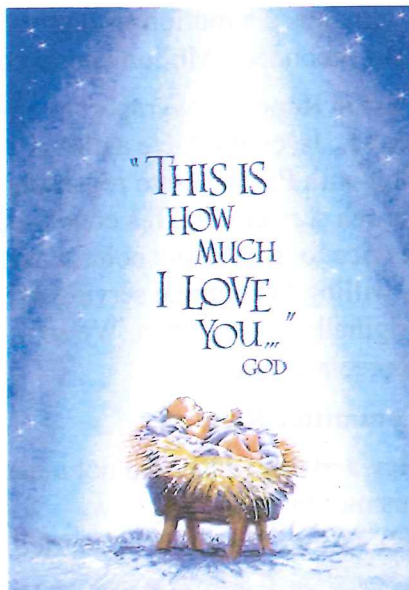
(during worship  
service)

\*In case of bad weather, program will be held on Wednesday December 18th at 7:00 p.m.



## Christmas Eve Worship Services 4:30 PM

(No late service)



I am going to start this message by expressing gratitude. I am grateful for all of the efforts that have been made by members of our congregation to keep the many ministries that are a part of our church going during this time of transition. I won't fall into the trap of trying to call out all of the examples but know that the number of examples is huge. This is a good reminder to all of us that WE are the church. Yes, we need learned teaching and ministry, we need spiritual leadership. That said, never forget that we come together as a congregation to worship due to shared beliefs and in fellowship due to affinity for one another.

I shared a bit of an update about the theft that occurred at our church in August a few weeks ago. I am going to repeat some of that information and share some new unfortunate news. We did receive an insurance settlement that means our total loss from the theft was \$250. We have since put deadbolts on all of the sensitive rooms in the church so access to the building doesn't have to be limited. Jim Ferden has also changed our banking in such a way that he is notified of all electronic transactions. This proved to be very useful the night of our last council meeting. Jim

*Continued on Page 9*



**GRACE COUNCIL, continued**

We need a new toilet in the one bathroom in the parsonage. Question is, what to be done with the 2<sup>nd</sup> bathroom. There needs to some updates made.

**Deacons:** Discussion of what to do with some non-emergency visitations to help out. Rita and Sheldon may be interested in helping with some of this, we will talk to them about it. Discussion of getting started on time and what can help if pastor has to be late. Brief discussion about decreasing the time spent on sharing the peace, and length of service.

**Call Committee:** Met last week, but no new information. Had a debriefing regarding the rescinding of Pastor Sara's application. Talking about doing a video as an intro to our church to be added into our profile.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Anonymous Gift Received—** \$30,000 with recommended designations of \$25,000 was for the church and parsonage, \$1,000 Sunday School, \$1,000 VBS, \$1,000 Youth Group, \$1,000 scholarships, \$1,000 NALCW, and \$500 for the choir. Gene made a motion to accept this generous gift and to disperse the funds as listed. Nick seconded. Motion carried.

**Thanksgiving & Christmas Eve worship schedule:** Pastor Sletto said he could do a Thanksgiving Eve service, however we decided not to have one this Thanksgiving. We had low attendance last

year and he is doing a great deal for us already. We will also have one service on Christmas Eve at 4:30. Lori made the motion to not have Thanksgiving Eve services, and to have one Christmas service at 4:30. Gene seconded. Motion carried.

**Coverage of non-emergency visits.** Gene will visit with Rita and Sheldon regarding their generous offer to help out. We will also ask for additional help if needed.

**Possible sharing opportunities have been brought up.** We do share the Youth Group and Released Time opportunities at this time. It was discussed that it may be a bit premature to consider a contract or parish arrangement at this time.

**Announcements:**

We received a solicitation letter from Pioneer Memorial Care Center. We will discuss Christmas offerings and how they will be designated. We will table this until next month.

Next meeting is December 11 at 8:00 p.m.

**Adjourn****The Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted,

*Yvonne Halvorson*

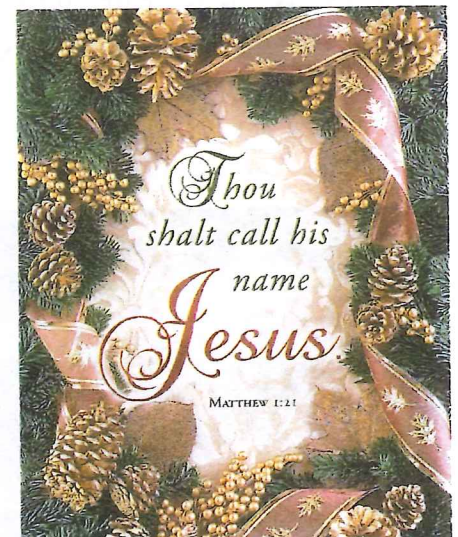
Yvonne Halvorson, Council Secretary

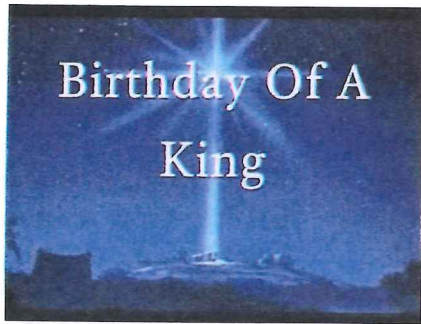
**COUNCIL NEWS, continued** was getting frequent notifications about banking transactions hitting our account. He went to the bank first thing the next morning and got everything resolved with \$0 liability to the church. Please take a moment to thank Jim for his stewardship of church funds when you get a moment.

It is soon December. That means the Nominating Committee will be making contact with members about open elected positions within our church. Please thoughtfully and prayerfully consider serving. It is a wonderful way to serve the church and to help ensure current activities are available for future generations.

If you have questions or concerns about any happenings at our church, please let me know. I am also happy to visit.

~Jason Carlson, President



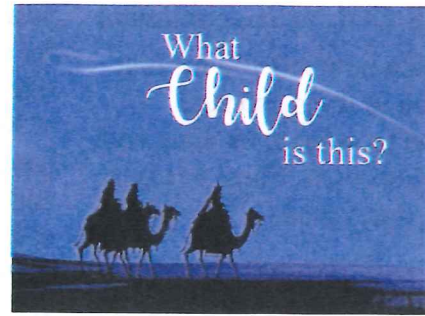
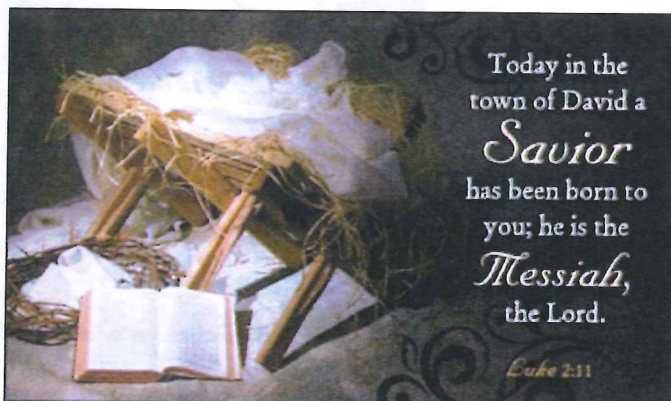


In the little village of Bethlehem,  
there lay a Child one day,  
And the sky was bright with a holy light  
o'er the place where Jesus lay.

Alleluia! O how the angels sang.  
Alleluia! How it rang!  
And the sky was bright with a holy light,  
'Twas the birthday of the a King.

'Twas a humble birthplace, but O how much  
God gave to us that day;  
From the manger bed what a path has led,  
what a perfect, holy way.

Alleluia! O how the angels sang.  
Alleluia! How it rang!  
And the sky was bright with a holy light,  
'Twas the birthday of the a King.



What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While Shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ, the Kings,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.



## Joseph's Letter

Dear Mom,

We're still in Bethlehem--Mary and I and little Jesus.

There were lots of things I couldn't talk to you about last summer. You wouldn't have believed me then, but maybe I can tell you now. I hope you can understand.

You know, Mom, I've always loved Mary. You and dad used to tease me about her when she was still a girl. She and her brothers used to play on our street. Our families got together for supper. But the hardest day of my life came scarcely a year ago when I was twenty and she only fifteen. You remember that day, don't you?

The trouble started after we were betrothed and signed the marriage agreement at our engagement. That same spring Mary had left abruptly to visit her old cousin Elizabeth in Judea. She was gone three whole months. After she got back, people started wondering out loud if she were pregnant.

It was cloudy the day when I finally confronted her with the gossip. "Mary," I asked at last, "are you going to have a baby?"

Her clear brown eyes met mine. She nodded.

I didn't know what to say. "Who?" I finally stammered.

Mom, Mary and I had never acted improperly--even after we were

betrothed.

Mary looked down. "Joseph," she said. "There's no way I can explain. You couldn't understand. But I want you to know I've never cared for anyone but you." She got up, gently took my hands in hers, kissed each of them as if it were the last time she would ever do that again, and then turned towards home. She must have been dying inside. I know I was.

The rest of the day I stumbled through my chores. It's a wonder I didn't hurt myself in the woodshop. At first I was angry and pounded out my frustrations on the door-frame I was making. My thoughts whirled so fast I could hardly keep my mind on my work. At last I decided just to end the marriage contract with a quiet divorce. I loved her too much to make a public scene.

I couldn't talk to you. Or anyone, for that matter. I went to bed early and tried to sleep. Her words came to me over and over. "I've never cared for anyone but you.... I've never cared for anyone but you...." How I wished I could believe her!

I don't know when I finally fell asleep. Mom, I had a dream from God. An angel of the Lord came to me. His words pulsed through my mind so intensely I can remember them as if it were yesterday.

"Joseph, son of David," he thundered, "do not fear to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

I couldn't believe my ears, Mom. This was the answer! The angel continued, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

The angel gripped my shoulders with his huge hands. For a long moment his gaze pierced deep within me. Just as he turned to go, I think I saw a smile on his shining face.

I sat bolt upright in bed. No sleep after that! I tossed about for a while, going over the words in my mind. Then I got up and dressed quietly so I wouldn't wake you.

I must have walked for miles beneath the moonless sky. Stars pricked the blackness like a thousand tiny pinpoints. A warm breeze blew on my face.

I sang to the Lord, Mom. Yes, me, singing, if you can imagine that. I couldn't contain my joy. I told Him that I would take Mary and care for her. I told Him I would watch over her--and the child--no matter what anyone said.

I got back just as the sun kissed the hilltops. I don't know if you still recall that morning, Mom. I can see it in my mind's eye as if it were yesterday. You were feeding the chickens, surprised to see me out. Remember?

"Sit down," I said to you. "I've got to tell you something." I took your arm and helped you find a seat on the big rock out back. "Mom," I said, "I'm going to bring Mary

*Continue on Page 12*

**JOSEPH'S LETTER, con't.**

home as my wife. Can you help make a place for her things?"

You were silent a long time. "You do know what they're saying, don't you, son?" you said at last, your eyes glistening.

"Yes, Mom, I know."

Your voice started to rise. "If your father were still alive, he'd have some words, I'll tell you. Going about like that before you are married. Disgracing the family and all. You... you and Mary ought to be ashamed of yourselves!"

You'd never have believed me if I'd tried to explain, so I didn't. Unless the angel had spoken to you, you'd have laughed me to scorn.

"Mom, this is the right thing to do," I said.

And then I started talking to you as if I were the head of the house. "When she comes I don't want one word to her about it," I sputtered. "She's your daughter-in-law, you'll respect her. She'll need your help if she's to bear the neighbors' wagging tongues!"

I'm sorry, Mom. You didn't deserve that. You started to get up in a huff.

"Mom," I murmured, "I need you." You took my hand and got to your feet, but the fire was gone from your eyes.

"You can count on me, Joseph," you told me with a long hug. And you meant it. I never heard another

word. No bride could hope for a better mother-in-law than you those next few months.

Mom, after I left you I went up the road to Mary's house and knocked. Her mother glared at me as she opened the door. Loudly, harshly she called into the house, "It's Joseph!" almost spitting out my name as she said it.

My little Mary came out cringing, as if she expected me give her the back of my hand, I suppose. Her eyes were red and puffy. I can just imagine what her parents had said.

We walked a few steps from the house. She looked so young and afraid. "Pack your things, Mary," I told her gently. "I'm taking you home to be my wife."

"Joseph!" She hugged me as tight as she could. Mom, I didn't realize she was so strong.

I told her what I'd been planning. "We'll go to Rabbi Ben-Ezer's house this week and have him perform the ceremony."

I know it was awfully sudden, Mom, but I figured the sooner we got married the better it would be for her, and me, and the baby.

"Mary, even if our friends don't come, at least you and I can pledge our love before God." I paused. "I think my Mom will be there. And maybe your friend Rebecca would come if her dad will let her. How about your parents?"

I could feel Mary's tiny frame shuddering as she sobbed quietly.

"Mary," I said. I could feel myself speaking more boldly. "No matter what anyone says about you, I'm proud you're going to be my wife. I'm going to take good care of you. I've promised God that."

She looked up.

I lowered my voice. "I had a dream last night, Mary. I saw an angel. I know."

The anguish which had gripped her face vanished. She was radiant as we turned away from the house and began to walk up the hill together.

Just then her mother ran out into the yard. "Wait," she called. She must have been listening from behind the door. Tears were streaming down her cheeks.

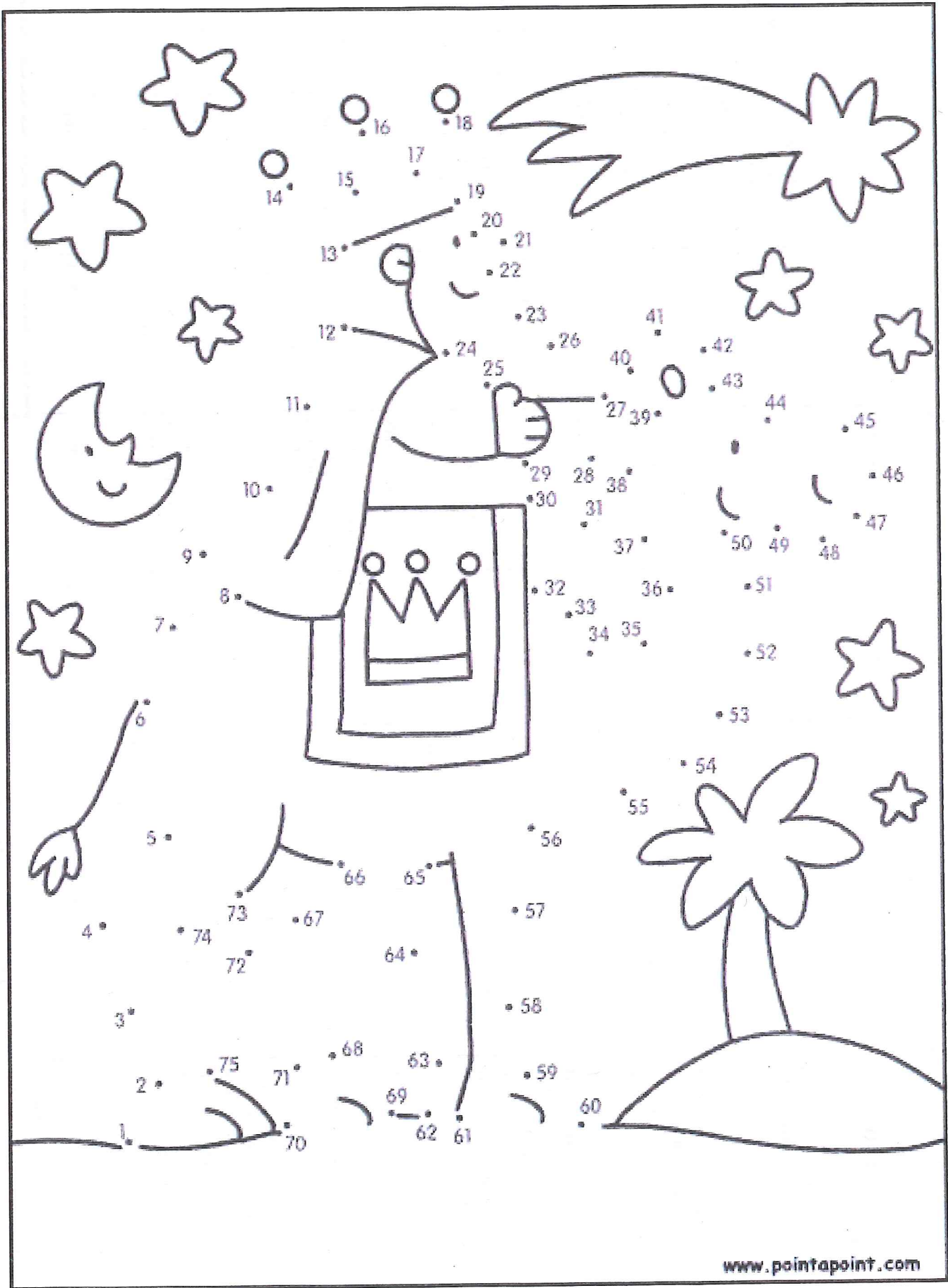
"I'll get your father," she called, almost giddy with emotion. "We," she cried as she gathered up her skirts. "We," she shouted as she began to run to find her husband. "We ... are going to have a wedding!"

That's how it was, Mom. Thanks for being there for us. I'll write again soon.

Love, Joseph







# DECEMBER 2019

## Grace Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	2 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	3 5:30pm- Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	4 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-RT Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	5	6	7 9:30am- Rebroadcast
8 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	9 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	10 7pm- Women of Grace' Bible Study 8pm-AA mtg.	11 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-Jr. High RT 6pm-Youth Meeting 6:30pm-Rebroadcast 7:30pm Committees meet 8pm-Council mtg.	12	13	14 9:30am- Rebroadcast
15 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/ Sunday School Christmas Pro- gram	16 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	17 5:30pm- Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	18 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-RT Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	19	20	21 9:30am- Rebroadcast
22 9am-ABS 10:30am- Worship	23 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	24 4:30pm-Christmas Eve Worship 8pm-AA mtg.	25 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>	26	27	28 9:30am- Rebroadcast
29 9am-ABS 10:30am- Worship	30 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	31 8pm-AA mtg.	<b>Greeters:</b> 1st: Rob & Lori Hole 8th: Scott & Kristin Hornbuckle	15th: Steve & Dawn Jacobson 22nd: Allen & Liz Jenson	29th: Nancy Jenson	

\*CIRCLES\*  
Hope at the church  
Rebecca at the church  
Mission Sr. Meal Site

**Ushers :**

Ogden Farder, Jr.  
Gene Haugom  
Calvin Kolstad  
Ray Voxland  
Jon Clementson

**Communion Assistants:**

Don & Betty Lundin

**Altar Flowers:**  
Mission Circle

**Altar Guild:**  
Maxine Walter

**R= Reader**

**V=Video**

**A=Acolyte**

**DECEMBER 1st:**

R~ Mary Bratrud

V~ Charley Carlson

A~ Riley Kochman and Carter  
Fortman

**DECEMBER 8th:**

R~ Rita Trandem

V~ Jareth Walk

A~ Jayden Haugen and Cameron  
Svalen

**DECEMBER 15th:**

R~ Sunday School Program

V~ Bret DuChamp

A~ Kianna Tadman and Melissa  
Pries

**DECEMBER 22nd:**

R~ Mavis Haugom

V~ Izabelle Ostenaar

A~ Clare Stuhaug and Kyra Stuhaug

**DECEMBER 29th:**

R~ Betty Lundin

V~ Hunter Westcott

A~ Dylan Hagen and Emily Strom



# Emergency Closing Procedures

## Grace Lutheran Church

### Introduction

The procedures in the this document have been developed and approved by the Grace Church Council to inform members of our congregation about what will happen in an inclement weather event or other emergency. Note that, no matter the written procedure, it is important to share the information you hear with others. Redundant information is better than missing information in an emergency.

### Sunday School

The Sunday School Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for decisions about whether or not Sunday School will be in session. Once a decision is made, notification will be posted as follows:

Broadcast Medium	GVTV Channel/Radio Frequency/URL
KVLY TV	Channel 11
KXJB TV	Channel 5
WDAY/Z TV	Channel 6,8
KKCQ-FM, KKCQ-AM Fosston Radio	96.7-FM, 1480-AM
KROX-AM and website	1260-AM, <a href="http://www.kroxam.com">www.kroxam.com</a>
Sunday School Facebook page	

Note that any decisions about canceling Sunday School must be coordinated with the Pastor or Church President so that notifications can be coordinated in the event there is an announcement related to the Worship Service.

### Worship Service

The Pastor shall be responsible for decisions about whether or not to hold Worship Service during any kind of emergency. If Pastor is absent, the Church President shall make any needed decisions. If a decision is made that alters the posted worship schedule, notification will be posted as follows:

Broadcast Medium	GVTV Channel/Radio Frequency/URL
KVLY TV	Channel 11
KXJB TV	Channel 5
WDAY/Z TV	Channel 6,8
KKCQ-FM, KKCQ-AM Fosston Radio	96.7-FM, 1480-AM
KROX-AM and website	1260-AM, <a href="http://www.kroxam.com">www.kroxam.com</a>

### Church Council meetings and Congregational Meetings

The Church President or designee shall make decisions about postponing or canceling Council Meetings or Congregational Meetings. In the case of Council meetings, notification shall be made via e-mail and phone. For Congregational Meetings, notification will be posted in the same manner as for Worship Service changes.