

December  
2018  
Edition

# The Lamp

## Grace Lutheran Church

Growing in Grace—Making Christ Known

### PASTOR'S *Ponderings*

Advent is a time of anticipation. We turn our eyes in expectation of a new world. We wait in hope of something truly special that we cannot yet understand and sometimes cannot quite believe.

It's an appropriate orientation for us as we approach the end of the calendar year and start the new Church year. It's getting cold and dark, and we huddle for warmth. For some people, there is more time for reflection and wonder. For others, there is a frenzy of activity that seems to be demanded of them. But regardless of our schedule, in Advent we say "the world is about to turn."

Turn toward what?

Turn away from what?

Turn how?

The Old Testament prophets tell us quite a bit about this turning and what it portends: the sky will be torn in two, and the old world that has grown so entrenched in injustice and deceit is burned away, while a new world is born. The new world is one that operates by different rules, with different systems at play. The new world is governed by love, guided by kindness, supported by patience, and made known in selfless sacrifice. This is in stark contrast to a world governed by power, guided by greed, supported by indulgence, and made known in selfishness.

"When will this new world be born?" you ask.

Why, it already has been born. But birth does not happen in a single moment. It takes time. Very often, it is an agonizing process, as those old prophets tell us. Chances are, this new world has already been born in your heart. But it has not been fully delivered in the world yet, so we live in a state of "already, but not yet."

That is the wonder of Advent. Things have begun, and the old world is crumbling away, but the new world has not yet fully emerged, even after all this time. But we have the privilege of participating in its birth. We are the midwives of another world. The process may take longer than we can imagine to be fully realized, but we can see glimpses of it in our own faith community and in faith communities around the world.

In Advent, we turn our eyes to the birth and look with expectation for a God who breaks into our world in the form of a helpless, powerless infant. The wonder of such an event is marvelous and exciting: things are happening. To quote C.S. Lewis from *The Chronicles of Narnia*, "Aslan is on the move!"

Grace Lutheran Church  
907 Luther Drive  
Wilmingon, IL 60481

Growing in Grace—Making Christ Known

**Check out our website**

[www.gracewilm.org](http://www.gracewilm.org)

**Sunday Worship: 9:00a.m.**  
**Sunday School: 9:00a.m.**  
(Sept. - May)

**Church Office Hours:**  
**Mon.-Wed. 9a.m.-Noon**  
**Thurs. 8a.m.-11a.m.**  
**Fri. 8a.m.-Noon**  
**Office Phone 815-476-9480**

**Office e-mail: [office@gracewilm.org](mailto:office@gracewilm.org)**  
**Pr. Seth: [pastor@gracewilm.org](mailto:pastor@gracewilm.org)**

## Volunteers

	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Assistant</b>
12/02	Charlie Lussenhop	Jackie Danalewich	Karen Nielsen	Doris Dickey
12/09	Jacob McPherson	Susan Trimby	Christy Ziller	Jim Hankins
12/16	Jace Christian	Dee Elsner	Jody Godsey	Christy Ziller
12/23	Hannah Melvin	Frank Dickey Jr.	Jackie Danalewich	Doris Dickey
12/24(4 pm)	Charlie Lussenhop	Jim Hankins	N/A	N/A
12/24(7 pm)	Jacob McPherson	Susan Trimby	Dee Elsner	Maryann Ricken
12/30	Jace Christian	Jackie Danalewich	Gary Gruhn	Susan Trimby
01/06	Charlie Lussenhop	Christy Ziller	Laurie Humann	Dee Elsner

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
12/02	Paula Webb & Sherry Moyers	Deb & Gary Robertson, Kurt & Lynn Stehlik
12/05W	N/A	Cindy & John Filas
12/09	Will & Maryann Ricken	Ken Wolske, Dan Bell, Elsie DeWald, & Stan Long
12/12W	N/A	Arlene & Jim Hankins
12/16	Marjorie & Scott Soda	Bruce Elsner, Gary Gruhn, Maryann & Will Ricken
12/19W	N/A	Dave & Terry Phillips
12/23	Cindy & John Filas	Dan Bell, Gary Gruhn, Stan Long, & Ken Wolske
12/24(4 pm)	The Reents Family	T B D
12/24(7 pm)	The McPherson Family	Arlene & Jim Hankins, Dave & Terry Phillips
12/30	Jim & Arlene Hankins	Elsie DeWald, Bruce Elsner, Deb & Gary Robertson
01/06	Marsha & Phil Keller	Jim & Arlene Hankins, Kurt & Lynn Stehlik

**Altar Guild:** Arlene & Jim Hankins

**Bellettini receipts** ~ Just a quick reminder...please bring in your Bellettini receipts for the Women of the ELCA. This is how they purchase the coffee, paper goods, plastic utensils and other items needed for the kitchen. They thank you for doing this for them!

### In Our Prayers

Members: Helen Warke, Curt Fox, David Kirstein & Norma Siebring

Friends and Family of Grace: Mary Ellen Webb (sister of John Filas), Donny (brother-in-law of Deb Robertson), Fritzie Ceveno (friend of the Kirsteins), Kurt Stefans (son-in-law to the Warkes), David Houston (friend of Dan Bell), Tina McBride (friend of Maryann Ricken), David DeWald (Irving DeWald's brother), Ewald Stefans (friend of the Warkes), Jordyn Bell (Dan Bell's granddaughter), Rylee Gowens (friend of the Filas), Irma Wagner (sister-in-law of Joann House), Dorothy Ann Milling (Joann House's niece), Lori Jordan (sister of Lynn Christian), Jack Zdanowski (Warkes' nephew), Lynn Drozd (niece of Jackie Danalewich), Jeanne Kieffer (friend of the Warkes), Marilyn Butzow (friend of the Warkes), Sarah Hazelrigg (granddaughter of Jean Peterson), Matt Prodehl (son-in-law of Dan Bell)

Home-bound: Jean Goodwin (*home*), Theresa Klager (*Heritage Woods, Minooka*), Andrew Nielsen (*home*) (Karen Nielsen's husband), Dolly Hoover (*Sunny Hill, Joliet*) (mother of Karen Nielsen), Edie Hess (*Heritage Woods, Manteno*)

Serving overseas in the Armed Forces: Captain Erik Gundersen (Grandson of the Warkes)

**WELCA's Christmas Party** is on Thursday December 13th. All women of Grace are welcome to come. We will be meeting at Hayden's, here in Wilmington, at 6:30pm. A \$15 charge includes, a buffet/family style dinner, water, ice tea and coffee. Please bring a Christmas ornament to exchange, we will have a fun exchange game with them. The night will include games, great fellowship, a table price and lots of laughter. So please join us. RSVP to Debbie Robertson (815) 355-2798. If paying by check, please make it payable to Katelin Mrjenovich.

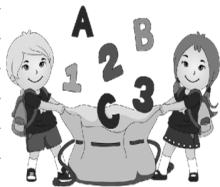
**Missionary for a Day ~ December 2018**

12/06	Red & Sharon Folkestad	For Katie Turner's Birthday
12/20	Roy & Bonnie Hill	For Granddaughter Alexa's Birthday
12/22	Roy & Bonnie Hill	For Great Granddaughter Reese's Birthday
12/23	Susan Trimby	In Memory of Homer Trimby
12/24	Gary Gruhn	Christmas Eve
12/25	Women of the ELCA	Christmas Day
12/26	Dave & Terry Phillips	In Memory of Geraldine Germanos
12/28	Susan Trimby	For Jeni & Trace Lambert's Anniversary
12/28	Teri Dicken	In Memory of her Loving Mother



**Preschool Christmas Program** will take place on December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00<sup>PM</sup>. Get in the "Christmas Spirit" as the preschool children share with us the gift of music, dance and laughter this holiday season. Grace Preschool will provide refreshments following the program.

**Happenings in Preschool**



November flew by for the preschool! We had a big Thanksgiving feast and learned all about the Pilgrims and Indians. We are starting our Christmas season with the Advent Fair on Wednesday, November 28th. It's from 6:00 -7:00 pm. We hope to see many families take advantage of the nice evening.

Our Christmas program is on Tuesday, December 18th at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend! The children work so hard and always put on an unforgettable performance. The Christmas parties are on Thursday, December 20th and Friday, December 21st. Santa will be visiting again. We look forward to fun parties! Our break begins after school on the 21<sup>st</sup> and goes through January 7<sup>th</sup>. School resumes on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Bellettini receipts** ~ Just a quick reminder...please bring in your Bellettini receipts for the Women of the ELCA. This is how they purchase the coffee, paper goods, plastic utensils and other items needed for the kitchen. They thank you for doing this for them!

**Advent Mid-Week Services**

On Wednesdays in December (until Christmas), we will be having Advent mid-week services. Join us at 6pm for soup, salad, sandwiches, fellowship, and discussion time. After everyone has eaten, we'll have a beautiful Holden Evening Prayer service in the sanctuary. Holden Evening Prayer is a short vesper-style service that is almost entirely sung. Filled with gorgeous songs and contemplative moments, it has become an Advent favorite of Lutheran churches around the world.



**Advent Is Coming!!!** Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> marks our 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the season of Advent. This holy time prepares us for the coming of our Lord in Christmas. Wednesday midweek services will begin on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM. These (brief) services will serve as a time for prayer and meditation.

*For unto us a Child is born*

**Silent Night, Holy Night**

~ We will be gathering together in worship of the birth of our Lord on Christmas Eve. The "Barn Service" is scheduled for 4<sup>PM</sup> at Oak Knoll Farm (33891 S. Rivals Road). Dress warm as we gather amidst God's creatures to celebrate the miracle of God incarnate. We are looking for volunteers to help set up and clean up the service, please notify Pr. Seth or the Church Office if you would like to assist. At 7<sup>PM</sup> we will gather at Grace for our "Candlelight Service". This service provides a time to sing to the Lord our praises as we welcome the Light of the World into our midst. Bring your family, bring your friends - all are

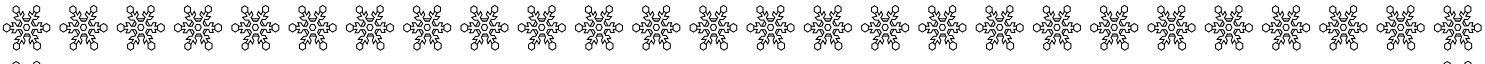
**Birthdays for December 2018**



12/06	Cindy Filas
12/10	Curt Fox
12/13	Joann House
12/20	Jordyn Reents
12/31	Lindsey Trammel

**Anniversaries ~ December 2018**

12/06	Cindy & John Filas
12/10	Dawn & Curt Fox
12/22	Elsie & Irving DeWald



## Weekly Groups on Pause until 2019

Our Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study, our Thursday morning Men's Bible Study, and Sunday night Confirmation are all on pause until after the new year.



## Christian Help Association (CHA)

It's that time of the year for thanking God for our many blessings and especially for sending his son to die for us. Children are excited and anticipating all the presents they are going to receive.

Unfortunately, there are 750 adults and 356 children in the Wilmington area that would not be having a very happy Christmas if it wasn't for the Christian Help Association (all churches in Wilmington are part of this association). We at Grace are part of the CHA and do our part in making Christmas happy for these children and their families.

Each family will receive 4 bags of groceries including a ham, toiletries, good clean used coats, hats and mittens, and the children will each receive approximately 3 gifts. A whole lot of volunteers from all churches put in a lot of hours of work to make this happen. It makes me so grateful to live in a town with so many caring people.

Grace is providing the following items:

- 1) Clean used coats for adults and children. Boys' coats are especially needed—all sizes.
- 2) Mittens, hats, scarves, boots in all sizes.
- 3) Shampoo and bar bath soap.
- 4) Dishcloths and scrubbies for seniors. They can be made or purchased.
- 5) Green Beans—we need 600 cans (watch for sales!).

There are bins in the fellowship hall for the above items.

6) The Christmas Tree is up in the narthex and the tags are on the tree representing the age of a child in need. Green depicts a boy and red a girl. Select a tag, purchase a gift for that age of child, return it to the church under the tree UNWRAPPED with the tag taped to it. If you would rather donate money, there are envelopes on the tree for your donation. One of the volunteers will do the shopping for you.

### **DEADLINE FOR EVERYTHING IS DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>!**

Thank you in advanced for your generosity in helping those less fortunate than us and have a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS! If you have any questions, please call Bonnie Hill @ 815-476-6861.

P.S. On December 14th, groceries will be bagged at the St. Rose gymnasium at 6p.m. People take a bag and walk around the gym, while other people put in an item. This is repeated until all bags are filled. Children are invited to participate, but they have to be big enough to carry a full bag of groceries.



## Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, October 14, 2018

**Council Members Present:** Pastor Hecox, Dave Phillips, Phil Keller, Diane Carr, Debbie Robertson, Regina Bauer.

Meeting called to order at 10:20am

**Opening Prayer:** by Walt Farley Synod Representative. Walt collected information about Grace's Mission and Outreach work. He told of available funds for related Mission and Outreach work. Pastor Seth closed Walt's session with prayer.

**Minutes of September Council Meeting:** Reviewed and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report reviewed and approved. Proposed 2019 budget was reviewed. Phil made a motion to accept, seconded by Diane, motion passed.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor told of a new confirmand. He feels the youth events are well received. There was also an offer for possible no cost ad space in the Free Press. Pastor continues to work on creating Grace Teams and what responsibilities would fall under these teams.

**Old Business:** None

### **Committee Reports:**

*Properties* – Debbie Robertson provided the Properties report. Report was reviewed and discussed. A new facility use form was reviewed and approved with some changes to fees. Properties recycling fund raiser profits to be used by Properties Committee was approved by Council.

*Outreach* – Trunk or Treat was discussed. Advent Fest is being planned for 2019. Possible Pre-School scholarship fund was discussed.

### **New Business:**

Council approved a small Girl Scout group facility use from 6:00pm – 7:00pm on a Thursday to be determined, once a month.

Generosity Sunday for December will be Lutheran Disaster Relief.

A congregational meeting for budget approval will be held on November 11<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the service.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50am

Closing prayers by Dave.

Submitted by,

David Phillips