

GOOD NEWS OF GRACE

THOUGHTS
FROM
PASTOR MATTHEWS



Grace Lutheran Church
Tacoma, WA 98409

Resolutions

Advent/Christmas

Nov./Dec. 2011

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Special points of interest:

- Officers & Board Member Installation
- Congregation Meeting
- Advent Wednesday schedule
- Advent Dinner information.

The New Year is coming. Are you ready for it? Will you make resolutions for the New Year? What might they be? Do they involve physical changes, lifestyle adjustments, or personal growth strategies? Do you write down your New Year's resolutions and check on your progress during the year? Every year millions of New Year's resolutions are made, and a few are actually kept. I have made resolutions in the past related to weight loss, eliminating a bad habit, and spending less time on my computer. I have been semi-successful in keeping resolutions. More often than not the resolutions we make are disregarded within a month or two of the beginning of the year.

The New Church Year begins on November 27th. Have you thought about any resolutions relating to your walk with Christ? We often resolve to do things differently at the beginning of the calendar year, but don't often think about the church year.

The concept of New Year's resolutions is a good one. If we undertake a conscious process of thinking about where we are at and what we are doing with an eye toward what would improve our life

or our outlook, it is helpful. A wise philosopher said, "If you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got." Resolutions help us develop a plan for improvement.

Two verses from the gospel reading on Reformation Sunday are stuck in my mind. "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32.

Our busy lives tend to rob us of opportunities to abide in the Word. We consider ourselves truly the disciples of Christ, but we don't always reflect it to the world around us. One day my daughter was in a restaurant with her son. The food was brought to her and Seth, and she rolled up Seth's sleeves, then folded his hands with hers and gave thanks to God for the food they were about to eat. A patron in the diner commented to Korin as she left, that she was encouraged by the example set by Korin in teaching Seth the importance of praying before eating, even in public. Are we encouraging people around us by our actions?

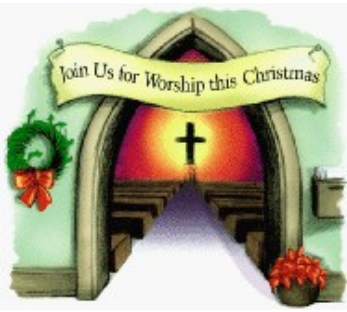
Do we abide in the word

(written and spoken) or the Word (Jesus, the incarnate Son of God) in a manner that reflects that we are truly disciples? When we fail to abide in the word, we lose sight of the truth. There are consequences of losing sight of the truth. Jesus tells us the truth sets us free. When we lose sight of it we become enslaved to sin and the desires of our human flesh. We begin to make excuses to God, instead of confronting our fallen-ness and seeking forgiveness and restoration.

As the New (Church) Year approaches contemplate your resolutions relating to your walk in the Lord. Make a bold resolution to attend worship every Sunday, or to join a Bible Study Class. Commit yourself to supporting our ministry by volunteering. Prayerfully consider a resolution to "Abide in [Christ's] word"; truly be a disciple of our Risen Lord and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.



A Message From our Congregation President-Wayne Ridenour



Our Grace Family
Advent is just around the corner bringing the start of another Christmas season. It is good that we have the fellowship of Grace to worship God and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The strengthening of each individual's faith is one of the reasons for our worship. It is right for each of us to reach out to our Grace family members. Ensure that ALL are aware of the wor-

ship opportunities at Grace and that YOU miss their fellowship in strengthening YOUR faith. I pray to see more of you as we begin another church year.

2012 church officers and review the spending guide for next year. There will be members contacting you to fill vacancies on our Boards and Committees. Please remember if asked to serve then prayerfully consider using your God given gifts at Grace.

Voters' Meeting

November 20 immediately following church will be the second of our regular voters' meetings for 2011. Besides the Board and Committee reports, we will vote for



Wednesday Advent Vespers
November 30- December 7, 14, 21-
10:00a.m. & 7:00p.m.

Altar Guild Requests

An Abundance of Thanks



Cornucopia, a Greek word meaning "horn of plenty," has origins in Greek mythology. But the cornucopia became a religious symbol and was even stamped on Jewish coins. Overflowing horns, now common as Thanksgiving centerpieces, came to symbolize abundance and blessings.

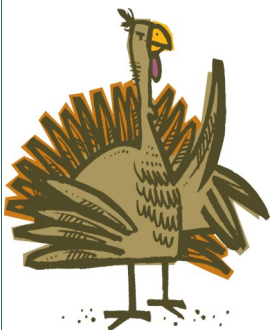
The Altar Guild will be gathering non perishable food for **Thanksgiving** to

place in the cornucopia at the altar. Place your donation in the narthex designated box. Your Social Ministries Committee will see to it that your contributions are shared with reliable food banks.



This year you can order poinsettias by signing up at the hallway counter. The

Altar Guild will be purchasing them from the park conservatory at Wright's Park. Cost is \$10 due by December 15th. You can also purchase your own and deliver them no later than Friday, December 23rd. Any size and color.



"I have never understood why anyone would roast the turkey and shuck the clams and crisp the croutons and shell the peas and candy the sweet potatoes and compute the cranberries and bake the pies and clear the table and wash the dishes and fall into bed exhausted when they could just as easily sit back and enjoy a hamburger or a pork sandwich."

—The Turkey

SIGN OF THANKFULNESS

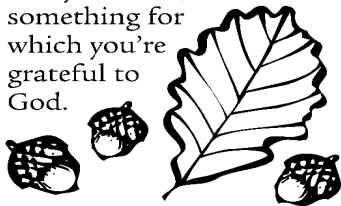
Create this festive sign, which will serve as a yearlong reminder to be grateful.

What you need:

- Hole punch
- Large piece of cardboard or cardstock
- Twine
- Twigs
- Glue
- Acorns, leaves (real or silk) and raffia

What you do:

1. Punch two holes in the top of the cardboard.
2. Thread twine through the holes and tie it in a knot (for hanging).
3. Using twigs, spell out "Be Thankful," "Thank God" or a similar phrase about gratitude. Glue the twigs onto the cardboard.
4. Decorate the sign by gluing on acorns, leaves and raffia.
5. Hang up your sign. Whenever you see it, think of something for which you're grateful to God.



PUZZLE

A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

7+6
strength

9+1
shepherd

30-5
the

7+5
ends

50-26
live

21-10
will

27-24
reach

10+7
flock

40-20
stand

15+4
securely

8+8
his

35-31
LORD

17-3
greatness

10-3
earth

10+5
will

5+1
will

"He _____ and _____ his _____
15 20 10 17

in the _____ of the _____ And they _____
13 4 11 24

_____, for then _____
19 16 14 6

_____ to the _____ of _____."
3 12 25 7

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

The Bible According to Kids

Children say the funniest things about Scripture. Here are a few examples:

- "In the first book of the Bible, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off."
- "Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made

unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients."

- "The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterward, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments."
- "The greatest miracle in the

Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him."

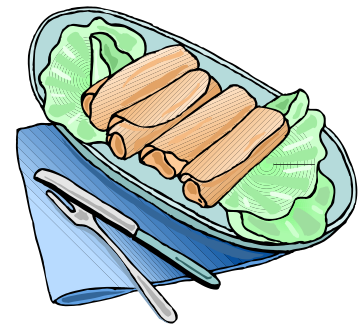
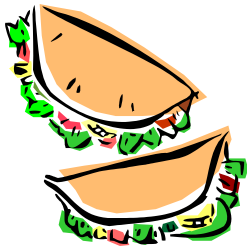
- "When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta."



Sunday School Program

Sunday, December 18

Feliz Navidad



This year's Advent Dinner Will be Celebrating Christmas in Mexico.

Christmas in Mexico is celebrated annually on the 25th of December, as in many other parts of the world. Mexican Christmas traditions are not influenced by the American way. Rather they are homegrown and based mainly on Mexico's form of Roman Catholicism. Popular cultural traditions in Mexico, called "posadas", have also given rise to several traditions observed here during Christmas.

Mexican Christmas celebrations begin on December 12, with the birthday of "La Guadalupana" (Virgin of Guadalupe), and end on January 6, with the Epiphany. Children usually do not attend school on January 6. They wake up early in the morning to find gifts or toys kept in their room and figures of the Three Mag-ic Kings at "El Nacimiento". Like Santa Claus in the US and other western nations, the Three Wise Men are the ones believed to bring gifts not only to baby Jesus but also to millions of Mexican children who have placed written requests in their shoes. Also unlike in the US where children get presents on December 25, most Mexican kids receive their gifts at Epiphany (January 6th).

At midnight on Christmas Eve, dazzling fireworks, ringing bells and blowing whistles announce the birth of Christ. The bell-sounds beckon families to the Midnight Mass. Thousands flock to the churches to attend the well-known "Misa de Gallo" or "Mass of the rooster". It is called the "Mass of the Rooster" because it is said that the only time that a rooster crowed at midnight was on the day that Jesus was born. When the Mass is over, families return home for a sumptuous Christmas dinner of traditional Mexican foods.

Though the dishes vary from region to region, common foods are "tamales", rice rellenos, "atole" (a sweet traditional drink) and "menudo".



To R.S.V.P.- Sign-up at the hallway counter. Indicate how many in your party and what you will bring. Salsa & Chips, Vegies, Salads or Desserts (no bread, please) Jim Edwards will be preparing the entrées of Chicken Enchiladas, Beef Tacos, Spanish Rice and Beans

Celebrations



Nov. Birthdays

- 1 Scott Bartholomew
- 2 Ella Johnson, Kelsey Hollis
- 3 Kassie Mix
- 5 Stacey May
- 10 Laura Bartholomew, Megan Sylvain
- 15 Jasmyne Moon, Kevin Castaneda, John Danielson
- 16 Eric Wolf
- 19 Melissa DuSoleil, Darlene Olson
- 20 Marilyn Overly
- 21 William Habermann
- 27 Patricia Bertrand
- 28 Dustin Jordan Jr.
- 29 Kelsie Mocerì
- 30 Erik DeRusha

Nov. Wedding Anniversaries

- 2 Carl & Pauline Silvernail
- 11 Wayne & Doreen Ridenour
- 23 Al & Deborah Sherls

Nov. Baptismal Anniversaries

- 7 Seth Troxel
- 23 Lillian Wrye
- 25 Kassie Mix
- 27 Kelsie Mocerì
Nicole McNett

In Memory

- 5 Virginia Coleman (1894-1985)
- 7 Katherine Deil (1890-1981)
Chauncey West (1902-1982)
- 10 Rev. Gary Kabista (+2004)
- 14 Myrtle Brown (1898-1995)
- 25 Hazel Jacobsen (1903-2002)
- 27 Rev. Winfred A Schroeder (+2004)
- 28 Patricia Winchell (1936-1988)

Dec. Birthdays

- 4 Eleanor Hammeken, June Renwick
- 7 George Budd, Patty DeRusha
- 9 Denny Jordan
- 20 Rainer Faust
- 21 Michael Schimling
- 22 Michael Newcomer
- 23 Lilo Faust
- 25 Savanah Olson
- 26 Caroline Rimbach
- 27 Joan Desanto
- 30 William Bertrand



Dec. Wedding Anniversaries

- 14 Earl & Laura Burger
- 26 Antonio & Teresa Gutierrez
- 31 James & Edith Luco

Dec. Baptismal Anniversaries

- 3 Jack Thompson
- 9 Kelsey Hollis
- 18 Carl & Pauline Silvernail
- 25 Stacey May, LaVonne Bahm
- 26 Savannah Krieger
- 27 Ethan Shimanek

In Memory

- 6 Wilma Schimling (1916-1990)
- 8 Alma Woodson (1923-1996)
- 12 Viola Dill (1913-1993)
- 14 Mavis Turney (1925-2004)
- 23 Gerhard Neils (1898-1993)
- 24 David Scotty Scott (1955-2003)
Warren Hug (1921-2010)
- 29 Rev. Richard Tollefson (1920-2004)
Jan DuSoleil (1949-2004)



Costs keep going up and postage will increase in January 2012.

PLEASE help us save on mailings, supplies and copying costs?

Did you know you can download a copy of the newsletter at www.gracelutherantacoma.org?

Notify the office if you would like your name removed from the mailings, 253.472.7105.



Received into membership on
Reformation Sunday October 30:
Nanette Stoltenberg and Korin Troxel

GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH

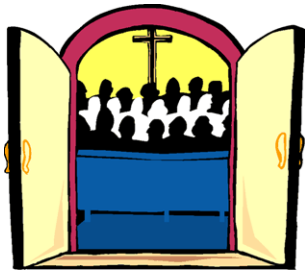
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**Congregational
MEETING**

11:30a.-Sunday
November 20

**Feliz
Navidad**

Advent Dinner with a
Mexican flavor
Sunday,
December 4, 5:30-8p.m.



Thanksgiving Service
10:00a.m.



Organ Concert with
Cheryl and Tim Drewes
Sunday, November 27,
3:00p.m.



**Christmas
Program**

Sunday, December 18