




GOOD NEWS OF GRACE

Grace Lutheran Church, Tacoma WA

CHRIST MASS in JANUARY By Pastor Tietjen



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Special points of interest:

- Messages from the Vicar & President Ridenour
- Sunday School pictures

The transition from calendar year to calendar year goes largely unnoticed in the Church Year as the twelve Christmas days continue Christian celebration uninterruptedly from the evening of 24 December through the Twelfth Night Eve of the Epiphany of Our Lord on 5 January. The 6th of January launches the season of the EPIPHANY - a word meaning APPEARANCE. The appearances of the Lord Christ begin with the story from Matthew's Gospel account of the coming and returning of the Magi - the Wise Ones.

Because of the mention of three gifts given the Christ Child, popular tradition has considered *three* Wise Men who were even given names: CASPAR, MELCHIOR, and BALTHASAR. In Latin piety the first letters of these names: C M B together with the numerals for the year were inscribed in chalk over the door of the house to stand for the Latin blessing: *Christus mansionem benedictus* - (translated: *May Christ Bless this Dwelling Place*). To observe the Epiphany blessing at your home chalk over the entrance door: **20 + C + M + B + 11**. And then be ready to answer the curious

questions of your guests with the truth of God's timely promises.

The 2011 Epiphany season relates Sunday by Sunday the many appearances of Jesus as the Christ/Messiah/Anointed One of God in ministry to people in varied times and places. Because of the late date for the Lenten/Easter cycle in 2011 the Epiphanytide will be longer than usual - two full months in all: 6 January - 6 March. In Jesus' name our parish Vicar Matthews will be using this time of Epiphany to make home visits on our Grace member families. Feel welcome to extend him an invitation that will meet with your and his schedule, especially if you have not already had occasion to host him in your home.

The Epiphany season is also an opportunity for all of us to use this winter time as good occasion to host each other. Likely there is someone among our parish family not known to you. Reach out in Christ and welcome as Christ others by whom you can deepen the bond in Christ that is ours here at Grace congregation. In other words, **LET ALL GUESTS BE RECEIVED**

AS CHRIST. Yes, Jesus is the Christ among us also in his body the Church of which we are all members. In preparation read: Romans 15:7



*From the
Vicar Matthews*



Vicar James Matthews Message

Happy New Year!

It is hard to believe that we have reached the beginning of a new year. The last twelve months for the Matthews family have been filled with excitement and change. Changes for me included finishing the classroom portion of my theological education and beginning my vicarage. For BJ it was a time of saying good-bye to friends and co-workers in St. Louis and jumping into a new job and new friendships in Tacoma, with a little side trip to the East Coast to welcome grandson number 1 to the Matthews side of the family. Justin closed one chapter in his life and has begun a new chapter at Mt. Rainier Lutheran High

School, and has made some great friends already. We look forward to the next twelve months continuing the adventure we have begun here.

For me the vicarage has been a humbling yet exhilarating challenge. In six months I feel like I have barely scratched the surface of getting to know you. Every person I meet and talk with brings me to a greater appreciation for how God has wonderfully made and cared for all of his children. It doesn't appear that things will slow down at all as we finish up the one year vicarage in June. Over the next six months I will be visiting with members in their homes, continuing to teach youth catechism

classes and adult bible classes, as well as, preaching regularly.

Of note for all of us is the January 23rd voters' meeting to discuss and decide on whether to extend a call to me to be your pastor after my vicarage is complete. Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you contemplate the future of Grace Lutheran Church and who will be its next pastor. No matter what the decision is, the Synod, Northwest District and the Seminary will support you and the Matthews family in the direction chosen.

May God continue to shower us with blessings as we embark on the journey of faith together in 2011.

"Every person I meet and talk with brings me to a greater appreciation for how God has wonderfully made and cared for all of his children."



VICAR VISITS



Catechism Class

Evangelism Project-Vicar James Matthews

As most of you know, part of my vicarage includes developing and implementing an evangelism project at Grace. After looking at the demographics of the congregation and of our surrounding community, I have settled on a project for the coming year.

Drum roll please

The project I have proposed to Pastor Tietjen and to the Seminary is to begin a series of events inviting the local community to join with us in celebrating our faith and our neighbors. The first event proposed is an Easter Egg Hunt, for children in the surrounding community. This will hopefully occur on the Saturday before Palm

Sunday, or the Saturday before Easter. I will be meeting with the St. Andrew Committee as we prepare for this outreach event on January 13th. A special note of thanks to Bert & Sue Stibbe for hosting the initial planning meeting at their home. Everyone is encouraged to help us as a congregation reach out to our local community with the message of hope and salvation we share in the body of Christ.

A second event will be planned for and held in August, in conjunction with the National Night Out. A third event will be to hold an Advent Children's gathering at Grace. Ideas and input

as to how to coordinate and accomplish these events is encouraged and appreciated.

As we reach out to the community, let us give thanks to God for the opportunities he gives to us to share his love with those who have not had the chance to experience it firsthand.



"You don't have to be on the committee to join in the outreach activities of the St. Andrew Committee."





President Wayne Ridenour

Grace in 2010. **THANK YOU AND THANK YOU** to every member for the time, talents and resources that you gave back to the Lord at Grace Lutheran Church. Our wonderful worship services are made possible by the altar servers, ushers, deacons, choir, organist, readers, altar guild, Vicar, Pastor and pew sitters—thank you, thank you. Your inspired participation in the service strengthens every member of the body of Christ. All of the committee members, church officers, office staff, and other volun-

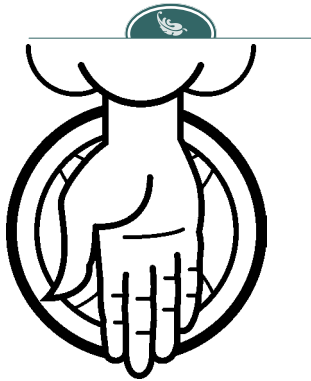
teers who take care of the day-to-day operation of the church make this a Christian family at Grace. Again you have my heart felt **THANKS.**

Installation of 2011 elected officers on 9 January alerts all Grace members to lend their personal and prayer support.



Call Meeting. To continue the process in placing a successor for Pastor Tietjen, there will

be a Voters' Meeting after church on January 23rd formally to extend a call to Vicar Matthews. This date was selected because Pastor Richard Peterson, our Circuit Councilor, will represent the Northwest District at this meeting. If a call is extended then appropriate paper work will be forwarded to district headquarters. Northwest District will review then send the Grace call to seminary for action. Grace will then be informed in late spring if our call has been accepted.



Hand of God

This symbolizes God the Father, as well as his ownership and care of all creation. During the Christian church's first 800 years, the hand was about the only symbol used for God. Many Bible verses speak of God's loving, protective hand (Psalm 138:7; Ecclesiastes 2:24; 1 Peter 5:6). In heaven, Jesus sits at God's right hand (Mark 16:19).

From the Loft—Sandra Tietjen, DCM



The SDG 2010-2011 Concert Series continues with a classical guitar concert featuring Raymond Garagalo, Saturday, January 29, 7:30p.m.

Coming in February—

Jonathan Young, organ.
Completing Doctoral work,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Sunday Feb-

ruary 13, 3p.m.

With permission all concerts are videoed live from the organ loft to a front screen installed only for these programs. All are invited to a post-concert reception to meet the artist(s).

Sunday School Bits and Pieces

Grace Lutheran's youth group this fall gathered together to make some new chrismons for the youth tree that was put up for the Advent dinner. Thanks to the Bahms who provided the tree.

From the Advent dinner there were 14 orders for Christmas cookies. The youth cleared about \$200.00 for future activities for the youth group. Many pounds of flour, sugar, both pow-

dered and brown, butter, margarine, eggs, and numerous flavorings were used in baking well over one hundred dozen cookies.

At the 2 January Sunday School program the congregation met some of the important people from the time of Jesus' birth.

Thanks to all the people who supported our cookie baking fund raiser. Thanks also to Sunday School students and staff for the work and witness in giving God *Glory in the highest* in the Christmastide. Your support is much appreciated.





Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries

- JAN. Birthdays**
- 1 William Bedingfield
 - 2 Carl Silvernail
Bud Langan
 - 5 Doris Bedingfield
 - 7 Norma Miller
 - 9 Karen Joy
 - 11 Jackie Borchers
 - 12 Leonard Ashley
 - 13 James Luco
Joshua Guild
 - 16 Julie Solie
 - 18 Tomi Budd
 - 20 Gladys Larson
Mark Stibbe
 - 21 Jayse Guild
 - 22 Carla Renwick
 - 23 Allen Hammeken
 - 25 Laura Burger
 - 26 James Moon

- 27 James Budd
 - 28 Rick Borchers
 - 29 Logan Wrye
- JAN. Baptism Anniversaries**
- 7 Emily DeRusha
 - 9 Megan Sylvain
 - 12 Adam DeRusha
Rachael DeRusha
Caroline Rimbach
 - 14 Tomi Budd
 - 22 Doris Bedingfield
 - 26 Marilyn Overly
Erin Moon
 - 28 Darlene Olson
- JAN. Wedding Anniversaries**
- 10 Earl & Charlotte Solie
- FEB. Birthdays**
- 2 Tim Wrye
 - 3 Eileen Edwards
 - 4 Eileen Tipton
 - 8 Helen Hall
 - 14 Brendon Mix
 - 16 Anita Thompson
 - 19 Joshua Wolf
 - 20 Bruce Zornes
 - 24 Erin Moon
 - 25 Teresa Gutierrez
 - 27 Ken Page



- JANUARY**
- 2 Selma Neils (1894-1989)
 - 19 Alfred Johnson (1914-1988)
 - 26 Alan Schimling (1941-1993)
 - 29 Clarence Joseph (1919-2007)
Hans Sdorra (assoc. mem.1937-2007)

- FEBRUARY**
- 5 Agnes Ostrander (1918-2001)
 - 8 Evayne Williams (1918-2007)
 - 11 Newton Sherrill (1903-1985)
 - 13 Laura Bauman (1915-2004)
 - 14 Patricia McCord (1929-1998)
Gladys Dailey (1917-1999)
 - 15 Margaret Strauch (1906-1991)
 - 16 Dona Ford (1913-1987)
 - 23 Juanita Henry (1917-1996)
 - 25 Emily Sherrill (1913-1999)
 - 29 Emma Nee (1894-1988)

A Love Letter

In the New Testament, John writes a letter about God's love and the love we should show to other people.

DIRECTIONS: Working from left to right, write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's. Then read about love, from 1 John 4:11-12, NIV.

lives 3	in 3	us 3	Since 1	and 3	God 1	so 1	loved 1	his 3
us 1	love 3	we 1	if 2	also 1	is 3	made 3	we 2	ought 1
to 1	love 2	love 1	one 1	complete 3	one 2	another 1	in 3	us 3
another 2	God 2							

1 John 4:11-12, NIV

BIBLE QUIZ

First Corinthians 13 is a popular Scripture reading at wedding ceremonies. The so-called "love chapter" provides an extended definition of what Paul calls "the greatest" gift (verse 13).

Which of the following characteristics of love isn't found in 1 Corinthians 13?

- A. Love is patient.
- B. Love rejoices in the truth.
- C. Love believes all things.
- D. Love is childlike.



Answers: Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Thoughts to Ponder



A psychologist has determined that the Monday in the last full week of January is the most depressing day of the year. This year, “Blue Monday” falls on January 24.

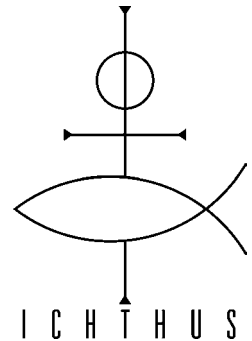
Cliff Arnall calculated this date based on a combination of bad weather, Christmas debts, broken New Year’s resolutions and the end of the holiday break.

But no matter how bleak things seem – regardless of the time of year – Christians always have reason for hope. Thankfully, we can look beyond our earthly circumstances to the promise of new life with God forever.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said, “We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope.”

Fish

The first letters in the Greek phrase “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior” spell ICHTHUS, or fish. Early Christians used the sign to convey their faith and avoid persecution. In the gospels, fish are part of several miracles. They also represent people who need to be “caught” for Christ. Today, a fish bumper sticker is a popular indicator of Christian faith.



The gift of humor



Gifted pianist and comedian Victor Borge once said the shortest distance between two people is laughter. He was right. Laughter does indeed quickly break down barriers.

Collect a few stories that make you laugh and have them ready when an occasion calls for more intimacy.

For example: A woman and six children were walking toward a park. An elderly man who was also headed there stopped the woman and said with a smile, “My, what a nice group of children! Are they all yours ... or is this a picnic?”

The woman’s response was immediate. “Yes! They’re all my children, and it ain’t no picnic!”

What's important



On February 4, 1968, exactly two months before Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, he delivered his last sermon at Atlanta’s Ebenezer Baptist Church. In it, he described his preferences for his own funeral. He didn’t want people to mention his Nobel Peace Prize, his other awards or where he went to school; none of that was important, he said. Instead, he wanted his eulogist to say King “tried to give his life serving others” and “tried to love somebody.”

In that sermon, King also said “everybody can serve,” regardless of background or educational level. The only requirements, he said, were “a heart full of grace” and “a soul generated by love.”



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

6202 S Tyler St
Tacoma WA 98409

Phone: 253.472.7105
E-mail: info@gracelutherantacoma.org

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January/February 2011

Special Voter's Meeting



to extend a call to Vicar Matthews

Sunday January 23

11:30a