

**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

Worship with Holy Communion  
Advent 3: Sunday, December 15: 9 a.m.  
Advent 4: Sunday, December 22: 9 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship  
5 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship  
10 a.m.

Sunday, December 29, Lessons and Carols 9 a.m.

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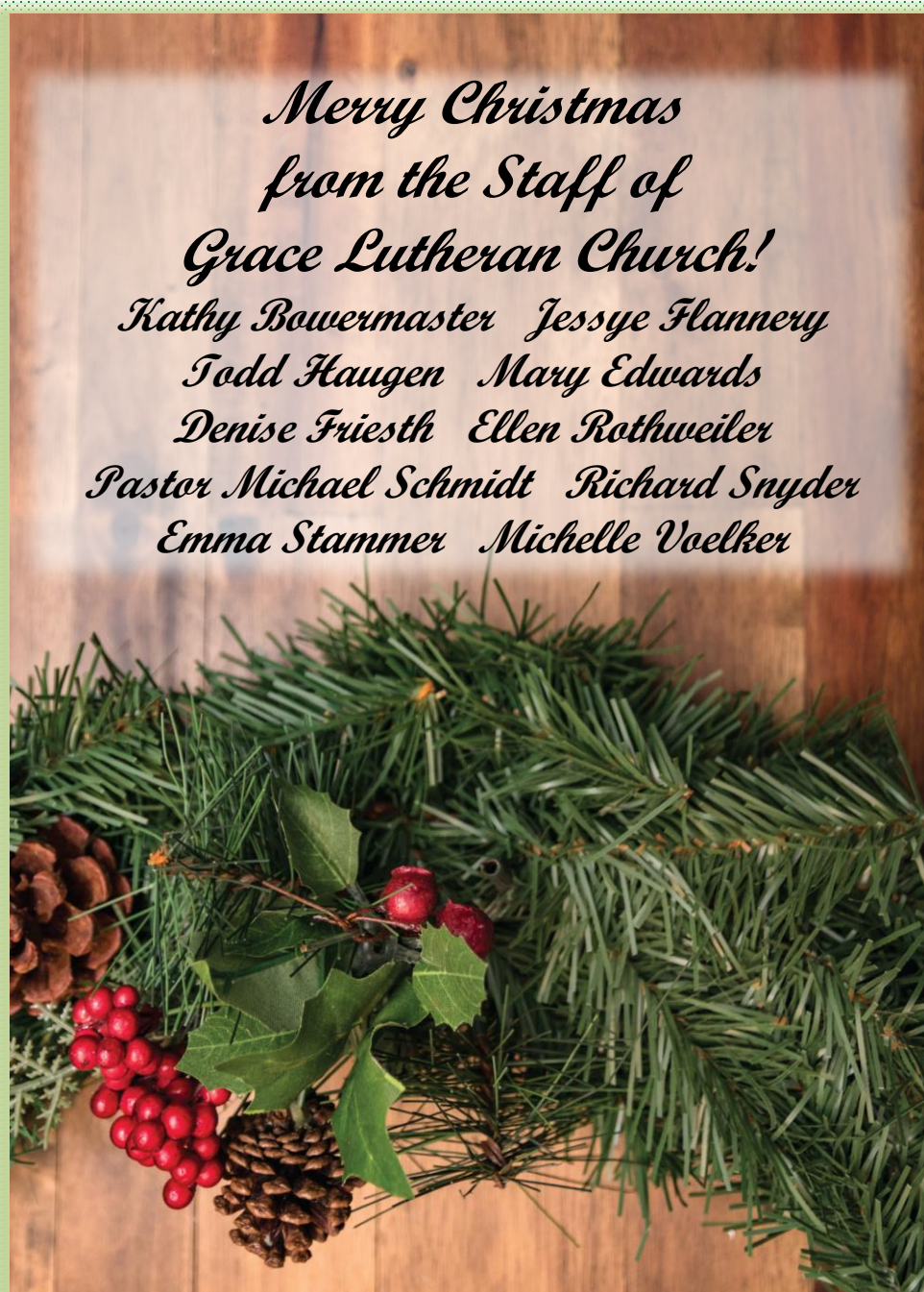
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**Christmas Eve  
Festival Choir!  
Come be a part  
of the Chancel  
Choir for a  
night on  
Christmas Eve!**

The anthem at the 5:00 p.m. service will be an arrangement of a familiar Christmas tune, sung in unison (no harmony.)

One required rehearsal: 4:00 – 4:30 p.m. Tuesday Dec. 24.

You may sit with family in the congregation during worship. If you are interested please let Emma know! Music will be distributed ahead of time, as well as a recording of the melody to listen to at home if desired. For further information or to commit, please contact Emma in person or at [emma@gracedm.org](mailto:emma@gracedm.org).

**December 15, 9am** - Grace Chancel Choir presents their musical Christmas offering in worship.

**December 24, 5pm** - Grace Festival Choir sings in worship, rehearsal at 4pm.

**2019 Calendar December 15-31**

The January Friendly Visitor with all of the New Year and 2020 happenings will arrive in your inboxes by January 2, if not earlier. The full December Friendly Visitor is still available on the website [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org) and in the church.

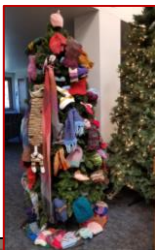
- 15 – Advent 3  
January Newsletter submission deadline  
10:15 a.m. Adult Ed “Because of Bethlehem”  
10:30 a.m. Council Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Ladies Night Out Christmas at Val’s
- 16 – 4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
- 17 – 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Grace Hall  
10:30 Centering Prayer, Upper Room  
11:00 Staff Meeting, Innovation Lab
- 18 – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation, Grace Hall  
**no choir rehearsal tonight**
- 21 – 9:30 a.m. Altar Guild meeting, offsite
- 22 – Advent 4  
10:15 a.m. Adult Ed “Because of Bethlehem”
- 23 – 4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
- 24 - Christmas Eve**  
Church Office Closed, GKC Closed  
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service  
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- 25 - Christmas Day**  
Church Office Closed, GKC Closed  
10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service
- 26 – 7:00 a.m. Private Event, Grace Hall  
Church Office Closed, GKC OPEN
- 29 – Christmas 1, Lessons and Carols worship
- 30 – Last Day for 2019 Deposits  
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
- 31 – New Years Eve**  
Church Office Closed, GKC OPEN
- Jan. 1 – GKC and Church Office Closed**

**Festival of Trees**

The Gathering Hall during Advent and the Twelve Days of Christmas is a celebration of various groups at Grace: Office Staff, Grace Kids Care, Library, Ladies Night Out, and others have chosen and decorated a tree in the Gathering Hall. Stop in and enjoy!

**Christmas Eve treats under the tree.**

A few years ago we brought back a favorite old tradition. Small sacks containing nuts, oranges, and piece of candy or two were handed out to children after Christmas Eve Worship. After each Christmas Eve worship at Grace, you will find baskets of fruit and candy on the tables and under the trees. You are invited to take a paper sack to fill and take home for you or a friend or family member. In each sack is a card with our Sunday worship Schedule, Lenten schedule, and Pastor Mikes contact information – we invite you to post this on your family bulletin board or fridge, or share with someone in your community who might need support. Treats are funded by Grace Women and purchased & set up by our Kevin Drury.



## Living with Joy



The word "joy" appears 222 times in the New Revised Standard Version translation of the Bible. "Faith" appears 267 times. "Love" appears 542 times. "Grace" only appears 119 times, while "hope" shows up 181 times. We speak a lot about grace, faith, hope, and love. There is something about joy that becomes a little, well, awkward. When we think about joy, the image that pops in our head is likely one of exuberance and a very extroverted personality. Maybe it is time to reclaim joy.

Living with Joy does not mean that we must suddenly become someone that we are not. It doesn't mean that being an introvert is bad, or that we suddenly have to become a cheerleader to those around us. That is not what joy looks like. Joy is something that runs much deeper that we give it credit in the modern context.

We are going to be spending six weeks in January and February looking at different aspects of Living with Joy. We will dive into the following topics during the Living with Joy sermon series.

- Jan. 5 – Living with Joy – In the Darkness
- Jan. 12 – Living with Joy – When the Light is Dim
- Jan. 19 – Living with Joy – When a Door Opens
- Jan. 26 – Living with Joy – During Seasons of Change
- Feb. 2 – Living with Joy – Becoming a Light to Others
- Feb. 9 – Living with Joy – Letting Your Light Shine

The number of references to joy in the Bible make it clear that we are to live with joy. We will study this together during this sermon series. We will journey from times of uncertainty and darkness to becoming a light to others. If someone you know could benefit from this series, please consider recommending worship at Grace Lutheran Church. We look forward to our time together in worship during the Season of Epiphany as we focus on Living with Joy.



Confirmation students, mentors, parents and siblings learn from Jill Boeschon how to make sleeping mats out of plastic bags for the homeless as one of their December service learning projects.

### **Sunday Schedule**

10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Hall after worship. Please join us for coffee, tea, juice, donuts and fellowship among the trees!

### **Adult Education 10:15– 11:00 a.m. in Grace Hall**

**December 15 & 22:** Because of Bethlehem. A Max Lucado Advent Study

Join us for an Advent Study by Mac Lucado. Max will unpack for us the promises of Christmas that reveal a lifetime of hope all because of one baby born in Bethlehem.

**December 29:** Fellowship in the Gathering Hall

### **Active Grace Sunday School**

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. We'll resume in January! Look for topics, dates, and times in the January newsletter, our website <https://gracedm.org>, Facebook, and other upcoming publications.

### **Dates to know!**



**The Year-end deposit will happen at noon on Monday, December 30.** All contributions arriving at the office after twelve noon on this date will be counted towards your 2020 contribution.

**Current Pledge Statement** If you would like an updated statement of your 2019 giving/pledge standing, please contact Denise Friesth at 276-6873 or via email @ [denise@gracedm.org](mailto:denise@gracedm.org)

**Year End Reports** due to the office on Thursday, January 9.

**The Finance & Budget Meeting** will be held Sunday, January 19 at 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. in Grace Hall

**The Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday January 26, 2019 after worship, followed by a catered lunch.

**2020 Offering Envelopes** for first quarter should be arriving in your mailboxes soon!

### **Weekly Offerings Resume January 6, 2020**

Check the website calendar, weekly announcements and January bulletin for all group meetings.

#### **Tuesdays**

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Bible Study, with Pastor Mike in Grace Hall

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Centering Prayer in the Upper room, led by Julie Honsey

#### **Wednesdays**

9:00 a.m. Willing Workers work & coffee time

9:45 a.m. Grace Kids Care Chapel

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Room

#### **Thursdays**

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Quilters, Msindo Quilt Room

#### **Sundays**

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship

10:00-11:00 a.m. Active Grace Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Adult Education, Grace Hall I

We also have a Brass Group and Bell Choir. If interested, contact [Emma@gracdm.org](mailto:Emma@gracdm.org)

**Lost and Found** Have you misplaced a pair of reading glasses, sunglasses, earrings, a bracelet, headphones, gloves, a travel coffee mug, 2T toddler clothes, or other items? Please check the Lost and Found in the office!

As many of the items have been hanging about for months, we will be donating unclaimed items after the first of the year.

**Grace Website** <https://gracedm.org> for Announcements, Bulletins, Events Calendar, and more!