



Good News of Grace
 Grace Lutheran Church
 Green Bay, Wisconsin
 December 21, 2016

*We celebrate Christ,
 teach Christ,
 witness to Christ,
 and care for others
 as though they are Christ.*



THOSE WHO GIVE THEIR LIVES FOR OTHERS

On the last Sunday of Advent I was waiting for the 8 o'clock service to begin. The members of the Adult Worship Band were praying. My job was to serve as acolyte, to offer what little I could to *The Messiah*, and to help serve communion.

The evergreen there caught my eye, a balsam fir tree probably, who had once been living somewhere up north probably, maybe on a tree farm, less likely in the wild, one of the five Christmas trees given as a gift by a young member of the congregation. Trees are featured in a couple new books I'll be reading this new year: *The Long, Long Life of Trees* by Fiona Stafford and *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate* by German forester Peter Wohlleben. I already know of research by why we have learned that oak trees exude some kind of fragrance when under attack by various kinds of pests, a fragrance that warns their neighbors the pestilence is coming. I don't recall if the trees are able to adapt in some way to thwart the oncoming plague, but I think that's

true as well. Trees obviously cannot run; they stand their ground and serve; they give us life as long as they live.

The Hebrew Scriptures understand trees as faithful creatures. God apparently has a soft spot in his heart for trees: in Deuteronomy, God told Moses to command the army of the people of Israel not to cut down trees as part of their military campaigns against "enemy towns." Only if a town "makes war with you" was it permissible to cut down trees for "siege works," so all the town's inhabitants might be "annihilated" ... particularly if those people were in the way of claiming the land God had promised to the people of Israel. Texts like these have, I'm sure, were used to annihilate the native people of this land, despite the fact that God did not promise it to Europeans. Jesus, thanks be to God, has different teachings about "enemies," but he did not rescind the special regard God has for trees in Deuteronomy.

No, in King David's vision of "judgment day," "the trees of the forest shall sing for joy before the LORD." (Chronicles 16:33 quoting Psalm 96) Those worshiping in the temple urged the trees

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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT GOOD NEWS OF GRACE: The next "Good News of Grace" will be sent out the week of January 2. Please have articles in to the Church Office by 12:00 noon on Monday, January 2.

to “praise the Lord” along with them. (Psalm 148)
 The prophet Isaiah proclaimed that the trees would “clap their hands” when the people of Israel were able to return to their homeland from exile in Babylon.

The lovely tree whose company I enjoyed while I was waiting for Advent worship to begin was, instead, quiet. And the tree’s silence reminded me of days I have spent among families of evergreens, whispering to each other like Quakers at worship ... only when the wind inspired them. I longed, at that moment before worship, to walk among the trees again. I know many of you love the awareness of the peace you feel among trees.

But I was aware at that moment, too, that this tree was no longer home. The tree’s young life had been given for us to play a part in the beautiful worship we will offer soon to the Lord of all trees, the Lord born among animals, the Lord rejected and hung upon the trunk of a mutilated tree forced to serve in the execution of God himself. The young, beautiful evergreen standing before me reminded me of God’s own sacrifice. The young, beautiful evergreen standing before me, adorned with gold and red ornaments, reminded me of gold the gift for a king and the red beads of blood on the King’s brow. The young beautiful evergreen stands alive and green and fragrant before me now as the resurrected Christ stood again on earth, urging his disciples to spread the Good News of God’s triumph over all our earthly powers of death.

So they did. So the Apostle Paul wrote:

Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing: ... a fragrance from life to life. ... We are not peddlers of God’s word like so many; but in Christ ... we speak as persons sent from God and standing in his presence. (Second Corinthians 2:14-17)

So we also are a people sent from God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing to bring them the fragrance of our self-sacrificing love. The young evergreen and all trees stand their ground and serve. We go out and serve. The young evergreen and all trees give us their life as long as they live. We are called to give our lives as long as we live for the one who has given himself for us: Messiah and King Jesus, born as one of us, born and given for us, alive now for us forever.

Pastor Larry



“YOUNG AT HEART” CORNER

Each month there will be the listing of all the programs scheduled for Young at Heart. Mark the 2nd Friday of each month on your calendar for Young at Heart. We meet at Noon in the North Basement for food, fun, & fellowship. The cost of the meal is \$8.00. Here is some of the schedule for 2017:

- JANUARY 13 Craig & Tony Berken, Norman Rockwell & WWII
- FEBRUARY 10 Kevin Cullen, Deputy Director, Neville Museum, Icons of Southeast Asia
- MARCH 10 Bellin College of Nursing Student’s service trip to Chicago
- APRIL 14 GOOD FRIDAY
(NO YOUNG AT HEART)
- MAY 12 Tammy Sze, Father’s journey with Alzheimer’s

Hope to see you at many of the interesting programs scheduled.

Bev Larsen

Health Ministry Coordinator

FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

General Fund as of November 30, 2016	
Budget /Anticipated income	\$ 52,564
Actual income	\$ 44,492
Actual expenses	\$ 46,344
Year-to-date budget	\$ 262,820
Year-to-date actual income	\$ 213,316
Year-to-date actual expenses	\$ 246,208

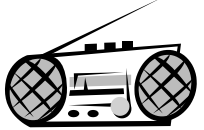
CONGREGATION OPPORTUNITIES



THE CONFIRMATION STUDENTS HAVE CREATED THE NATIVITY STORY IN GINGERBREAD!

The sets are located outside of Holy Grounds (near the North Basement). Please help us pick the winner by voting with your dollars and change for your favorite scene. All money raised will be donated to the Grace Lutheran Church Food Pantry. Thank you!

GRACE'S RADIO MINISTRY



"Just wanted to share with you how much the broadcast of Grace's Sunday service has meant to me. It has been there when I have needed it. Thank you."

I received this email a few months ago and was again reminded about how important our Sunday morning 8:00 am broadcast (1400 AM) is to members of our congregation and to people in our community who are unable to be present for worship.

Our general fund budget doesn't include a line item to cover the broadcast expenses of this ministry. Rather, members of Grace make designated contributions to keep us "on the air".

We pay \$100.00 for each Sunday morning's (from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.) 30 minute broadcast. Unfortunately, gifts to our radio ministry haven't kept up with the expense. If you would like to support this ministry with a designated offering, please make the notation on your offering envelope. Thank you for your continuing financial stewardship as together we support all of the ministries of Grace.

Pastor Julie



"YOUNG AT HEART"

January 13, 2017 is the date for the first Young at Heart of the New Year. Our meal will be Lasagna, garlic bread, 7 layer salad, & homemade desserts. Our speakers will be Craig & Tony Berken. You will remember they did a presentation about Norman Rockwell in 2026. Now they are back with Norman Rockwell & his life during World War II. If you are able, please a non perishable food item for our food pantry. Hope to see all of you & enjoy the presentation of Norman Rockwell.



TAX NOTICE:

Offerings must be received in the church office or offering plate or postmarked by December 31st in order to appear on your 2016 giving statement and qualify for a charitable deduction for 2016. Offerings received on January 1st or later cannot be included on your 2016 giving statement, regardless of the date written on the check, unless they are mailed and postmarked in 2016. Questions? Call Sharon, our parish administrator! 432-0308

GIVE A KID A BOOK™

Thank you to members of Grace who participated in the "Give a Kid a Book" campaign for Brown County families. 58 books were collected and shared!



IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED

please call the church office or the pastors. None of the hospitals inform us of the hospitalization of members of Grace in a consistent manner. Thank you!



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve
At 5:00 (w/LifeGuard Band and New Song Chorus), 7:00 (w/Communion) & 10:00 pm (w/Chancel Choir & Bells)

Readings:
 Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day
At 8:00 am (w/Communion) (No 10:30 worship)

Readings:
 Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

Saturday, December 31 & Sunday, January 1
 Carols, Healing and Holy Communion
 (See Page 6)

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday at 5:00 pm and
 Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30 am



Our Worship is Broadcast on
 Radio 1400AM at 8:00 a.m.

Follow the star...
Please join us for the 22nd
Ecumenical Downtown Christmas
Church Walk
Thursday Dec. 29, 2016
6:30 - 9:00? p.m.



The walk begins at
 First Church of Christ, Scientist
 130 North Monroe Ave.
 & ends at
 The Divine Temple of God in
 Christ
 425 Cherry Street

A bus will be available for those
 unable to walk

For the bus:
 Meet at 6:15 p.m. at
 Divine Temple
 425 Cherry Street

Please share with the homeless...St. John's Shelter in great need of toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, socks, & other personal items.
 For more information call 337-0561

Christmas 2016

Christmas Eve
5:00 p.m.
 Christmas with Life Guard
 Worship Band

7:00 p.m.
 Christmas Communion

10:00 p.m.
 Christmas Candlelight with
 Choir, Bells, Carols

Christmas Day
8:00 a.m.
 Christmas Communion



JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:00&10:30-Healing Worship 9:00-Coffee Hour</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>10:30-Women's Bible Study 1:00-Food Pantry 5:45-Scouts 6:00-Bd. Structures & Grounds 6:00-Curriculum Mtg. 6:30-Bd. Outreach</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30-Confirmation Family Fellowship 7:30-LifeGuard</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:00-Personnel Com. 6:30-Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00-Food Pantry</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:00-Worship</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:00-10:30-Worship Child Care 9:00-Coffee Hour 9:15-Sunday School 9:15-Sunday Buzz 9:15-Holy Donuts 9:15-Adult Education 11:30-Confirmation 11:30-Youth Board</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30-Chancel Bells</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00-Sarah Circle 9:00-Pastors' Conference Mtg. 1:00-Food Pantry 6:00-Bd. Education 6:30-Bd. Personal Growth</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30-WOC Bible Study 5:30-Meal 6:15-Adult Ed. 6:30-Confirmation 6:45-New Song 7:30-LifeGuard</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30-Chancel Choir 6:30-Scouts</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00-Food Pantry 12:00-"Young at Heart" Luncheon</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:00-Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00-Worship Band Reh. 4:30-meal at NEW Community Shelter 5:00-Worship</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:00-10:30-Worship 10:30-Worship Band Food Fight Child Care 9:00-Coffee Hour 9:15-Mission Endow. 9:15-Sunday School 9:15-Sunday Buzz 9:15-Holy Donuts 9:15-Adult Education 11:30-Confirmation 11:30-Curriculum Mtg.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30-Chancel Bells 7:00-Martin Luther King Service at Union Cong. Church</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:30-Women's Bible Study 1:00-Food Pantry 5:45-Scouts 6:30-Bd. Stewardship 6:30-Bd. Celebration</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30-Meal 6:15-Adult Ed. 6:30-Confirmation 6:45-New Song 7:30-LifeGuard</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:30-Mission Sewing 6:30-Chancel Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00-Food Pantry</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00-5th Grade Communion Class 5:00-Worship</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:00-Worship 10:30-Worship w/5th Grade 1st Communion and LifeGuard Band Child Care 9:00-Coffee Hour 9:15-Sunday School 9:15-Sunday Buzz 9:15-Holy Donuts 9:15-Adult Education</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30-Chancel Bells</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1:00-Food Pantry</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:30-Meal 6:15-Adult Ed. 6:30-Confirmation 6:45-New Song 7:30-Group Guides 7:30-LifeGuard</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30-Chancel Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00-Food Pantry</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:00-Men's Breakfast Bible Study 5:00-Worship</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:00-10:30-Worship Child Care 9:15-Sunday School Annual Jammie Party 9:15-Holy Donuts 9:15-ANNUAL MTG. 12:00-Sunday School Teacher Mtg.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30-Chancel Bells</p>	<p>31</p> <p>1:00-Food Pantry 6:30-Council Mtg.</p>				

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For Room Numbers see "Today at Grace" on the monitor in the Lobby.



What do you say when ...

Your kids ask what happens when you die?
Or the new family next door has two moms?
Or your co-worker is a Moslem?

We know kids ask great questions.

Now *everyone* has questions!

Get take away tips to help you with ...

*what do you say when
you're the one who gets one of those questions!*

All Sunday mornings starting January 8 between worship through May 21
(except Annual Meeting (January 29), Palm and Easter Sundays (April 9 & 16), and the Budget Meeting (May 7))

All Wednesday evenings starting January 11 at 6:15 p.m. through May 17 except Lent and Holy Week
(March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12)



CELEBRATION CONT'D.

"Risen with Healing in his Wings"

from "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Worship for the New Year's Weekend:

Carols, Healing, and
Holy Communion

Saturday, December 31, 2016
at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2017
at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.



WORSHIP MINISTERS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 8:00 AM

Lector & Com. Assist.:
Mildred Watermolen, L&CA
Ushers: Scott & Sharon Paplham, Katie
Paplham, John & Cheryl Kollath
Acolyte: Alivia McNabb
Accompanist: Jason Pues
Altar Guild: Linda & Dave Rabe, Debra
LaHaye, April Swim,
Ryan Davidson
Greeters: Bill & Dee Kaehler

SATURDAY DECEMBER 31, 5:00

Ushers: Rick & Janis Olson
Lector & Comm. Assist: Bev Larsen
Accompanist: John Kopp

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Lector & 8:00 - Hannah Willi, L
Com. Assist.: Lisa Willi, Karen Pangborn,
Lisa Herman, CA
10:30 - Gayle Schmeling, L&CA
Dick Schmeling,
Bern Jacobson, CA
Ushers: 8:00 - Bill & Dee Kaehler, Bea and
Byron Froelich, Ted & Barb
Gloeckler, Pete Diemer
10:30 - Kim Selissen, Paul & Jessica
Wikgren, Bill Stollberg,
Dick Destree, Daniel Selissen,
Lilly Helminger
Acolytes: 8:00 - Juell Jahnke
10:30 - Anna Broeckel
Accompanist: John Kopp
Altar Guild: 8:00 - Amy Vanko, Karen
Neumann, Warren
Neumann, Lisa Herman,
Joseph DeClerc
10:30 - Kitty Nagel, Linda Wier,
Judy Taylor, Gayle
Schmeling, Tyler Ness,
Taylor Langhoff
Greeters: 10:30 - Cheryl Kremer,
Dana Nava

SATURDAY JANUARY 7, 5:00

Lector & Comm. Assist.: Scott Ashmann
Ushers: Andrea Hansen,
Pam Anderson
Accompanist; Denise Zenko

CONGREGATION NEWS

It's happening again...
Tension is mounting...
Competition will be stiff...

JANUARY '14 & '15 GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH'S 8TH ANNUAL FOOD FIGHT!!!



The worship service that brings the most food wins the coveted trophy!!
Forgot to bring food? \$1.00 = 1 can!



ACCESS TO GRACE

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

321 S. Madison St., Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-432-0308 Fax: 920-437-5156
www.gracegb.org office@gracegb.org
f "Grace Lutheran Church Green Bay"

Worship Service Times:

Fall & Winter

Saturday at 5:00 p.m. with Holy Communion
Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion

Christian Education each Sunday from 9:15-10:15 a.m. (fall & winter)

Memorial Day Weekend thru Labor Day Weekend

Thursday at 5:30 p.m. with Holy Communion
Sunday at 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion

Staff:

Pastor Larry Lange Res. Phone: 920-455-0511
pastorlarry@gracegb.org

Pastor Julie Wrubbel-Lange Res. Phone: 920-455-0511
pastorjulie@gracegb.org

Director of Children's Ministries: Carrie Crane
Phone 432-0308 education@gracegb.org

Visitation Minister: Pastor Rebecca Proefrock
Phone: 920 819-5482 rproefrock@yahoo.com

Health Ministries Coordinator: Bev Larsen,
health@gracegb.org

Organist: Denise Zenko

Parish Administrator: Sharon Haapala, admin@gracegb.org

Parish Secretary: Ann Zehms, office@gracegb.org

Maintenance Supervisor: Dean Ahrens, grounds@gracegb.org

New Song Chorus and LifeGuard Band Director: Don Crane

Adult Choir Director: John Kopp

Chancel Bells Director: Pam Anderson

OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE IS BROADCAST EACH WEEK AT 8:00 A.M. ON WDUZ RADIO 1400 AM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
321 S. MADISON ST.
GREEN BAY, WI 54301

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