

December 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| 1 ADVENT WEEK 1 9 am Traditional Worship 11 am Grace Awakenings & Children's Church 4pm CORDOVA TREE LIGHTING! 1 pm Grace Bible Church | 2 | 3 7 pm Led by Grace (Men's Bible Study) | 4 7 pm Choir | 5 12 pm Al Anon Meeting 4 pm JAM 7 pm N. A. Meeting | 6 Office Closed 7 pm Sanctuary Reserved | 7 8 am Men in Mission Way of Grace 12 noon to 7 pm 2pm-6:30 OLFG (Fellowship Hall/ Big Classroom Reserved) |
| 8 ADVENT WEEK 2 9 am Traditional Worship 11 am Grace Awakenings & Children's Church 1 pm Grace Bible Church Printed copies of budget avail. | 9 | 10 7 pm Led by Grace (Men's Bible Study) | 11 1 pm Faith Circle (Women's Bible Study) at Thayer's 7 pm Choir | 12 12 pm Al Anon Meeting 2:45pm Bell Practice 4 pm JAM 7 pm N. A. Meeting | 13 Office Closed 7 pm Sanctuary Reserved | 14 8 am Men in Mission Way of Grace 12 noon to 7 pm 2pm-6:30 OLFG (Fellowship Hall/ Big Classroom Reserved) |
| 15 ADVENT WEEK 3 9 am Traditional Worship Noi\$y Money! 11 am Grace Awakenings & Children's Church 1 pm Grace Bible Church | 16 10:30 am Bible Study | 17 6:30 pm Trustees' Meeting 7 pm Council Meeting | 18 7 pm Choir | 19 12 pm Al Anon Meeting 4 pm JAM 7 pm N. A. Meeting | 20 Office Closed 7 pm Sanctuary Reserved | 21 8 am Men in Mission Way of Grace 12 noon to 7 pm 2pm-6:30 OLFG (Fellowship Hall/ Big Classroom Reserved) |
| 22 ADVENT WEEK 4 9 am Traditional Worship Congregational Budget Meeting 11 am Grace Awakenings & Children's Church 1 pm Grace Bible Church | 23 10:30 am Bible Study | 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7 pm Candlelight Service Followed by Food & Fellowship | 25 CHRISTMAS DAY | 26 12 pm Al Anon Meeting 7 pm N. A. Meeting | 27 Office Closed 7 pm Sanctuary Reserved | 28 8 am Men in Mission Way of Grace 12 noon to 7 pm 2pm-6:30 OLFG (Fellowship Hall/ Big Classroom Reserved) |
| 29 9 am & 11am Services: A Christmas Carol Extraveganza! 1 pm Grace Bible Church | 30 10:30 am Bible Study | 31 7 pm Led by Grace (Men's Bible Study) | 1 Men in Mission Breakfast |  | | |

Key: Grace Lutheran Church will be in WHITE, Way of Grace (WOG) will be in GREEN, Our Lady Full of Grace (OLFG) will be in BLUE, All others will be in GOLD

Advent and Christmas Season

The Church Year begins on Dec. 1st with the season of **Advent** (the 40 days before Christmas).

It is a time to prepare for Christ's coming.

The blue parament (sometimes purple) on the altar is a royal color and signifies hope. Advent Wreath (circle) represents the oneness of God - He is without beginning and without end. One white candle in the center of the wreath represents Christ and is surrounded by blue (or purple) candles. The evergreen/holly branches represents life, the leaves stand for the crown of thorns of Christ.

The tradition of the **Christmas Tree** began in early European societies that believed that trees that remained green in winter had strong powers. Soldiers and immigrants from Germany brought the first Christmas trees to the U.S. during the Revolutionary War.

Our church tree will be decorated with Chrismons ("Christ's monograms") which are symbols of Christ and are found in scripture. The tree reminds us of Christ, the Tree of Life, offering gifts of light, life, and wisdom. The altar paraments will change to white on Christmas which suggests the innocence, purity and perfection of the Savior.



Poinsettias

You are invited to donate a living, red, Christmas poinsettia plant to grace our sanctuary. Please bring your plant Sunday, Dec. 15th through 22nd. Following the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 29th, you may take your plant home.

"Jesus was not an American. He was not White, Black, Asian or Hispanic. Neither was He a Pentecostal, Baptist, Methodist or Catholic. He was and is the Son of God.

He will never fit into an American, nor a religious mold. The sooner we try to be like Him and stop trying to make Him be like us, the sooner we will see His purpose fulfilled in the world that He dies for."

Tommy Galloway

The **Church Council** has the following openings for the year 2020: President; Vice President; Secretary; (4) Trustee positions; (4) Deacon positions.

The Deacons are responsible for organizing all appropriate committees deemed essential for the spiritual direction of the congregation. The duties of the Trustees include all legal and corporate matters as well as fiscal and property matters.

If you would like to learn more about serving on the Council and about the specific responsibilities thereof please see Pastor Steve.

Council Minutes

November 12, 2019

- The Property Committee is reaching out to the congregation to volunteer their time to tackle the numerous Church fix-it projects, as they arise. Our Church grounds are a gift from God, let us seek new ways for our community to enter into it and share in the commitment of spreading the Good News of Christ and his promises. If anyone is interested in participating in the maintenance of the Church, please contact Bill Timberlake.
- Grace has received the necessary funding for the replacement of the Fellowship Hall and kitchen windows. The Property Committee anticipates the installation to take place within the next few months.
- Grace has become a member of the Rancho Cordova Community City Council.
- Grace will be hosting a booth at the Rancho Cordova Tree Lighting event December 1st.
- The Annual Church Budget meeting will be held between services on Sunday, December 22, 2019.
- In 2020, the Congregation will dedicate three dates to the cleaning and maintenance of the Church property.
- Council has been asked to reconsider replacing the 2 term limits for Trustees and Deacons to 3 terms. The recommendations will be brought before the new Council and Congregation in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Richardson