

Grace Lutheran Newsletter

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH • 1100 G STREET • FAIRBURY, NE 68352

December, 2020



The Pastor's Pen – December 2020

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" is a hymn that we sing during the Advent season of the church year. It is a prayer, in song, asking Jesus to come, and come quickly. This has been at the front of my mind this year. Maybe because I'm getting older and I'm coming to grips with my own mortality. Maybe it's because there has been so much focus on the pandemic and the effect it has had on our nation/world, physically, emotionally and mentally. Or maybe it's all the frustration and anxiety that has been created by the corruption in many and various ways around the world. Whatever it may be, it has driven me to realize how precious is the prayer and thought of Jesus' coming again.

So we prepare. Hopefully everyday of our lives and especially during Advent. We prepare by acknowledging our sinfulness and our desperate need for a Savior. Then, like the Innkeeper, we make room in the manger of our heart to receive the newborn king in the Christmas celebration, and as we welcome Him in anticipation of His return again, finally, to take us to our eternal, heavenly home!

This Christmas season is going to look different than the year's past because of the changes created by the pandemic. We invite you to participate in these new and exciting ways of telling the Christmas story! **First, our youth group is taking the lead in presenting a drive-through nativity on Sunday, December 20, 6:00 – 8:00 pm at McNish Park.** You will be able to drive through the park and listen to a narration of the Christmas story on your car radio. Plans are in the works and I encourage you to watch for details as they are developed. At the least set aside the day and time for this event.

Secondly, in lieu of our traditional Children's Christmas program, we will be presenting the **12 days of Christmas which tells the Christmas story in 14 different vignettes.** Many different families, children and adults, will be involved in telling the story, and we will put them out on Facebook and our church's website, **beginning Saturday, December 12.** Watch for them!

Third, our Sunday School children and leaders are putting together a Christmas package of goodies and videos to show to those who are homebound members. We will be delivering them sometime in late December.

Hopefully you can see that even though our Christmas celebrations will look different this year, the Christmas story is not going to be stifled!

As of the writing of this newsletter, many activities here at Grace are scheduled but may not actually happen. **PLEASE STAY TUNED TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS, FACEBOOK OR THE WEBSITE.**

NO MIDWEEK CHOIR OR ADULT CHOIR DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

LWML Circles: Mary Circle did not meet in December. **Ruth Circle** will meet on Thursday, December 17 at Cedarwood at 10 AM (**COVID PENDING**).

GMAT will meet Thursday, December 3 at 5:15 PM.

A hymn sing will be held on Tuesday, December 8 at 2:20 PM at Gardenside (**COVID PENDING**).

"Bible Break" will **NOT** meet in December.

Elders will meet Tuesday, December 8 at 7 PM. Church council will follow at 7:30 PM. **Elders will then decide when to sack candy.**

Advent 2 Service - December 9 - ALL members are invited for a "Songfest" after the Advent Service.

Midweek/LYF Christmas Party HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY POSTPONED.

The Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon will **NOT** be held but we will meet at 1:30 PM on Thursday, December 17 for our regular topic and meeting.

The Quarterly Voters Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 20 at 2 PM. The proposed budget for 2021 will be voted on at this meeting.

Midweek Classes - During the month of December, Grades 3-6 will meet 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM. **Grades 7 & 8 will NOT meet during December. Memory packets will be given to the students. Classes (Grades 3-8) will NOT be held on Wednesday, December 23 or 30. Classes (Grades 3-8) will resume on Wednesday, January 6.**

THE 2021 CONTRIBUTION BOXES ARE NOW IN YOUR MAILBOXES HERE AT CHURCH. PLEASE PICK THEM UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Grace Lutheran Church
1100 G Street
Fairbury NE 68352

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

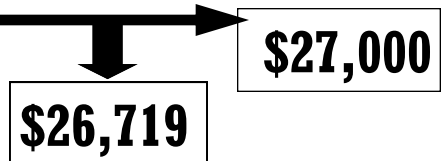
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INSIDE NEWS FOR DECEMBER

Advent Services - December 2, 9 & 16
Elders/Council Meeting - December 8
ALL Members Songfest - December 9
Voters Meeting - December 20
Drive-thru Nativity @ McNish Park -
December 20
Family Christmas Service - December 24



2020 MISSION GOAL



CURRENTLY, Advent services are scheduled for Wednesdays, December 2, 9 and 16 at 6:30 PM. This year's theme is "Prepare Ye." That is what we are called to do in Advent. Prepare for the Lord. The coming of Christ as a little baby to save us was something that the world was not at first prepared for. But birth announcements by shepherds and angels brought to the attention of all people that Jesus' birth was worth preparing for. It is our time now in this season to continue to the age-old practices of preparation to his glory.



Drive-Through Nativity: Be sure to set aside **6:00 – 8:00 PM on December 20, 2020** for our night-lit Christmas story, as presented by our Grace Lutheran Youth and others! You will be able to stay in the comfort of your car and listen to the Christmas story on your car radio as you drive through McNish Park. A variety of scenes from the Christmas story will be displayed, all with live participants and an animal or two!

Twelve Days of Christmas: Grace Lutheran families will be presenting 14 scenes from the Christmas story that will be posted on our Facebook page and on our website. **Start watching for the presentations on Saturday, December 12 and each day after that, culminating on Christmas Day!**

Christmas Eve Family Worship: Due to Covid restrictions, we will be limiting the number of people who can worship with us on Christmas Eve at 6:30 PM. **In order to plan properly, please contact the church office and let us know if your family wants to worship and how many will be attending. Due to social distancing requirements, we will limit the capacity to 90.** It is awkward, but this way we can make sure everyone can worship in a safe environment. **PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE ASAP.**



Generators, spotlights and extension cords needed: In order to light up McNish Park for the drive through nativity, we need to borrow these items so our scenes can be lit up. If you have any of these that we can borrow, please let the church office know as soon as possible!



If you would like to display a poinsettia this year, please bring it to the church by **Monday, December 14** and call the church with the name(s) "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" by **Monday, December 14. THE DEADLINE DATE IS DECEMBER 14, BUT THE POINSETTIAS MAY BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH ANYTIME BEFORE THAT. THANKS!!**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2019

We will have regular Sunday worship services (8:30 AM and 11 AM) on Sunday, December 27. Bible Classes and Sunday School WILL be held as usual. NO NEW YEAR'S EVE OR NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES WILL BE HELD



2021 Officers

Installation of Officers: Sun., January 3, BOTH SERVICES

Newly elected officers and those continuing in their respective offices for 2021 are as follows: **ELDERS:** Joel Fredrickson, Bob Bauer, Mike Harms, Russ Hennerberg, Mike Lofing, Schaun Schroeder, Kevin Ebke, Mike Grummert & Gregg Roesler; **TRUSTEES:** Eric Engelman, John Hammer & Curtis Arnold; **FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Jason Luebbe, Dennis Reedy, Dwight Schmidt, Dave Bedlan, Mark Koenig & Trevor Steinmeyer; **CHAIRMAN:** Jason Grant; **VICE CHAIRMAN:** Ted Luebbe; **SECRETARY:** Rose Wiegert; **CONTROLLER:** JoAnn Warnke; **TREASURER:** Lynne Blackwell; **RADIO BROADCAST AND MEMORIAL FUND:** Linda Hammer; **CEMETERY BOARD:** Sheryl Schoenrock, Alan Dux & Dennis Meredith; **TRUST FUND COMMITTEE:** Jerry Knispel, Don Haake & Nancy Bettin.

Installation of new and returning officers will be Sunday, January 3 at both services. We will publicly recognize the service of the past and present officers at that time. Thank you to those of you who have served your term - it has been vital to the work of our ministry here at Grace.

How, Lord. . . Can I Remain Strong in Faith? - LWML Mustard Seed Devotion

God calls His people to stand firm and trust Him and His Word as we encounter the real threats of the world. Wars, terrorism, cultural compromise, financial crisis, disease, political unrest, attacks on Christians, and poverty are only a few of the dangers that invade our lives.

When those invasions come we have a choice to make: we can live in fear and panic or we can choose to remain calm. We can worry about what may or may not happen or we can, through faith, put our trust in a sovereign God and His protection.

Faith is what frees us from the fears that Satan would burden us with. Faith is what links us to God's peace and power. Faith enables us to trust that our lives are in God's hands and He has a plan for each of us. . . *faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ* (Romans 10:17).