

THE GOOD NEWS OF GRACE

December 2023 / January 2024

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of Grace Lutheran Church 1408 Washington Street Wenatchee, WA 98801-2555 Volume 7 Issue 10



"When (the wise men) had heard the king (Herod), they set out;

and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped,

they were overwhelmed with joy."
(Matthew 2:9-10)

Dear friends in Christ,

Epiphany is meant to be a season of "a-ha" moments. It is a season in which we pay particular attention to the revealing of Christ in the world, and his unique role as God's living presence. I trust that you will have experiences where you will find yourself saying, "Oh, NOW I see it." God has arrived for us to come to know, to know ourselves on a deeper level, and for us to know better the world around us. As we pay attention to those revelations large and small, we will be changed people.

The above verses reveal an interesting epiphany for me. Wise men from the east were stargazers, astrologers who practiced the art of reading the heavens. This is a significant part of Matthew's nativity story. When I was a boy and reasoned like a boy, I thought the star was a new one in the sky above, fixed in place, and the wise men simply needed to travel to where a beam of light from the star landed on the Baby's feed trough.

Now, giving these verses a close read, I am struck by the motion of that same star. How in heaven's name had I been missing that detail, that the star was a traveling one? The guiding star was a guiding star, not a destination in and of itself. I am encouraged by this. As I let my imagination wander using current understanding of the motion of planets and stars, I think it's so delightful that the wise men journeyed on a journeying Planet Earth, following a journeying star set in a journeying galaxy in a journeying universe to be intersected by a journeying God who is born for all humankind. NOW I see it. You and I are God's "moonshot." What are the chances?

I would like to post here a poem that comes to mind for me every Epiphany, "The Journey of the Magi" by T.S. Eliot. I highly recommend you follow this link to listen to its recitation by Eliot himself.

https://poetryarchive.org/poem/journey-magi/

Together! Pastor James Aalgaard



THE MISSION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

To proclaim and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacraments so that a community of believers is created, trained, nurtured, and sent into mission.

December 24 Worship Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 24, at 10:30 a.m.

December 24 is a full day of worship for us! The morning service (10:30 a.m.) will offer a Service of the Word, in which we forego celebrating Holy Communion. It will be a morning where we follow the tradition of lighting our Advent wreath, and the scripture for the service will invite us to ponder Mary, the Mother of our Lord.

Christmas Eve Worship Sunday, December 24, at 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Join us Christmas Eve for a time of reflection and celebration of the birth of Christ. Our 5:00 p.m. service will be a service of lessons and carols. Readings will be dispersed throughout (hoping to include some of our young voices!). Familiar carols will be sung, and we will close the service with the lighting of individual candles and singing Silent Night, Holy Night, with a final celebratory Joy to the World. *Prelude will begin at 4:45*.

Our 8:00 p.m. service will follow a liturgical shape, also including readings, vocal choirs, brass ensemble and bell choir, other instrumentalists, preaching and candles, complete with Silent Night and Joy to the World. Holy Communion will be celebrated at both Christmas Eve Services. *Prelude will begin at 7:30.*



Christmas Worship Monday, December 25, at 9:30 a.m.

Join us Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m. for an informal time of food, fellowship, and worship. We will be gathering in the fellowship hall. We invite you to bring a food item to share...sweet or savory, your choice!

Advent Evening Prayer Offers Time for Quiet Reflection

In the midst of this busy time of year, moments of meditation on God's Word help us focus on the meaning of the Advent season and provide an opportunity to prepare our hearts for the Christmas celebration. Our service of Evening Prayer on Wednesday nights is an opportunity for us to do just that. We will gather in the front of the worship space with candlelight. Several musicians will lead our singing using a beautiful setting that is new to us: Behold Our Light by Aaron David Miller. Readings will mark the commemoration of several historic figures in the life of the Church. Come for supper at 5:15 and worship at 6:00 on December 6, 13 and 20. This is a great time to introduce someone to Grace. Bring a friend!

Together at Grace Meals

Our Wednesday Together @ Grace meal will be starting at 5:15 p.m. for the month of December, to accommodate for our music ensembles and our evening vespers service. If you are interested in helping provide meals for those gatherings, there is a three-ring binder in the kitchen that shows spots available. Hope to see you there!

December Worship Assistants

	Greeters	Ushers	Lector	Altar Guild	Tech	Communion Assistant
12/3		Jolane Guthrie	Nancy Gradwohl		Marlena La Paz	Colleen Smith
12/10		Joyce Owens	Joyce Owens	JuLee Fiebelkorn	Phil Gregg	
12/17			Riva Morgan		Chad DuLac	Colleen Smith
12/24 10:30			Suellen Harris			Nancy Gradwohl
12/24 5:00 p.m.						
12/24 8:00 p.m.			Dee Ann Gregg	JuLee Fiebelkorn		
12/31			Nancy Gradwohl		Phil Gregg	

Seeking Worship Helpers

Volunteer helpers make our worship run smoothly. We would love to expand our volunteer pool. <u>Here is a link to a "google sheet"</u> where you can put your name on an open slot. If you are having a hard time navigating the google sheet, please call (509-663-2189) or email our <u>church office</u> or <u>Pastor Aalgaard</u> and we can help.

Please note! The google sheet is a single document that can be changed (and added to) by anyone who has the link. You are very welcome to add your name to a slot that's empty, but please do not remove others' names or otherwise change the form.

2023 TEAM & COMMITTEE LEADERS

Arts: Phil Gregg

Building & Grounds: Dave Coe, Tom Gausman

Endowment: Karen Zanol

Faith Formation: Open Fellowship: Open

Pastoral Support:Julie BankenStaff Support:Ernie BentsenSocial Concerns:Kay FisherStream Team:Marlena La Paz

Worship: Kathy Gavin Youth & Community: Sue Coe Memorial Garden: Open

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Suellen Harris

Vice President: Dave Coe

Treasurer:

Secretary: Chad DuLac **Members-at-Large:** Riva Morgan

John McQuaig Paula Salter Tami Woolsey



Join us to wrap up your Christmas shopping early before the last-minute rush!

We will have a range of local vendors selling handmade cards, knit and crochet items, jewelry, charcuterie boards, quilted bowl cozies, table linens, bags, toys, and more!

We will also be joined by representatives of Pampered Chef, Mary Key, Color Street Nails, Scentsy, Younique, Stampin' Up, and more!

Don't forget to enter for the raffle or pick up some sweet treats from the Youth craft and bake sale table! All proceeds will go towards funding Grace Lutheran's high school youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA in July 2024.

Overview of Mark's Gospel

Sunday, December 10, at 9:15 a.m., join Retired Pastor Keith Garness for an overview of the Gospel of Mark. We will be meeting in the multipurpose room. Hope you can join us! Bring your Bible!

Drumming, Anyone?

Grace is blessed with a number of talented music-makers who enjoy playing percussion instruments. A drum circle is one way to channel such gifts and use them for both personal enjoyment and worship experiences. These improvisatory groups are a lot of fun, and can even be therapeutic. Children and adults alike can join in the fun. If you are interested in learning more about drum circles, or would like to participate in a drum circle at Grace (meeting once or twice a month, at a time convenient for all involved), please contact me at the church office. — Deacon Ruth

PRAYERS OF GRACE

- Kris Durr (nephew of Linda and Bill Sinnett) prayers for his wife Laurie and family as Kris is now in end-of-life hospice.
- **Bonnie Howeiler** continued prayers for healing, comfort, and hope. Bonnie is at Regency Rehab.
- *Bill Sinnett* prayers for the best outcome for upcoming bronchoscopy.
- Shay Siplin (fiancé of Sinnett's Grandson) prayers for relief from pain and correct diagnosis after biopsy.
- *Sarah Ankenbrand-Crosby* (Joe Trowbridge's nephew's wife) prayers for healing after surgery. Also continued thanks for the prayers for Ben (great-nephew of Joe Trowbridge).

To submit a prayer, please call (509-663-2189) or email our <u>church office</u> or <u>Pastor Aalgaard</u>. Please share with us details that are pertinent to the request. If you are asking us to pray for a person other than yourself, please seek that person's permission. Prayer requests are published for four weeks. You are welcome to resubmit your request if you would like it to remain on the list longer. Updates are welcome, also. We will do our best to help your request have a balance of privacy protection and sharing information. The ministry staff at Grace reserves the right to edit requests.

A note about our streaming service

We are experimenting with the slideshow that is presented during the Sunday morning livestream. Viewers will notice the design of the slides has changed (background and imagery). Also, note that we are using fewer slides. Viewers who would like to have a full copy of the worship order on hand should go to our website, www.glcwen.org/resources and download the bulletin there.

SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM

The Social Concerns Team works with concerns for the problems of society.



Funding Application Timeline

Applications for Funding from the Social Concerns Team will be going out on December 15th. The area of focus for 2023 will be Food Insecurities, Homelessness, and Education. Applications will be available on the church website, the church office, you can email Kay Fisher at threefishers@nwi.net or Robin Brown at rlcbrown63@gmail.com. Below is the timeline the Social Concerns Team adopted.

- o December 15th applications start going out
- o January 16th applications due
- o March 15th notify applicants

WHS Students Experiencing Homelessness Christmas Gift Cards

The Social Concerns Team is collecting gift cards for the Students of Wenatchee High School experiencing homelessness. You can help by doing one of the following:

- 1. There are tags on the Christmas tree in the narthex from which you can select. Each tag lists a place of business and the dollar amount of the gift card to be purchased. Bring back your purchased gift card and gift card receipt to the church. Place the gift cards along with the gift receipt in the box labeled "WHS Homeless Gift Cards".
- 2. You can write a check to Grace Lutheran Church for the amount you would like to donate. In the memo line be sure to write **WHS Homeless Students Gift Cards**.

Our goal is to provide approximately 45 students with a Christmas package containing a WHS T-shirt and a variety of useful gift cards so they may have a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for spreading the joy! Questions? Please contact Kay Fisher at threefishers@nwi.net or Robin Brown at RLCBrown63@gmail.com.

Thanking our Volunteers

The Social Concerns Team wants to thank all the volunteers that have helped with our projects this past year. Without volunteers we would not be able to help Medical Lake with Fire Relief efforts, 1,000 coats 4 Kidz, WHS Students Experiencing Homelessness Christmas Gift Cards, operate the pantry, or participate in Packing Friendship. A HUGE THANK YOU!



A Note from the Finance Office

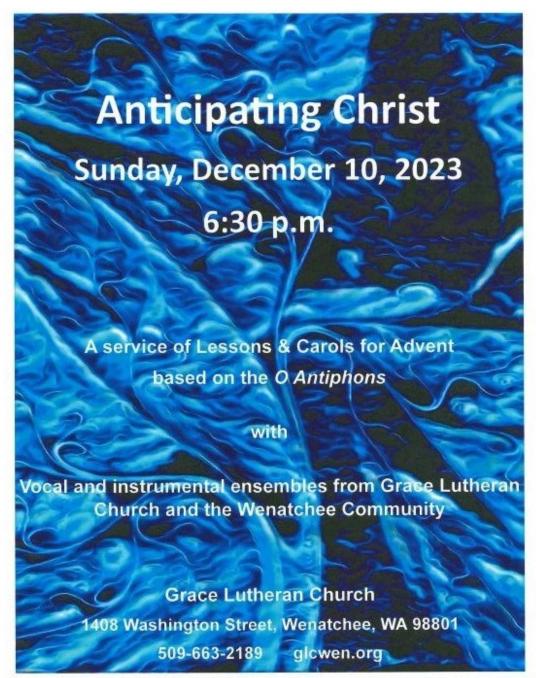
This is a reminder to all members that for donations to be included in 2023, they must be turned in or postmarked by December 31, 2023. The church offices will be closed December 26-December 30, so you may drop offerings in the (locked) mailbox outside the church office door by midnight December 31.

For those of you who use your bank's billpayer – make sure that you give adequate time for the billpayer donations to be processed and mailed. Some billpayer processing and mailings can be delayed for up to 2 weeks. Billpayer offerings received after January 6 will be attributed to 2024 donations.

Please be aware that our church software that tracks donations is not capable of splitting donations from a single check over 2 years. If you wish to donate for more than one year, please have separate checks issued.

Beginning January 1st, please discontinue use of the 2023 offering envelopes and use the 2024 envelopes instead. Thank you.

Team Leaders: Please note that the office will be closed the week of December 26-30. To have payments included in the 2023 budget, signed vouchers must be in my office no later than December 16. Thank you!



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Musicians from Grace Lutheran Church and the Wenatchee community present a concert of Advent Lessons & Carols, Anticipating Christ, based on the O Antiphons. The program includes Bible readings paired with anthems for choirs, hymns for the assembly, and instrumentalists (including a brass quartet, handbells, and the Columbia River Community Flute Choir). Sunday, December 10 at 6:30pm. Refreshments follow.

Christmas Caroling Saturday, December 16 3:30 p.m.

Help spread the good news of Emmanuel – God with us – as we sing Christmas carols to members and friends in the Wenatchee community. We'll meet in Grace's parking lot at 3:30 on Saturday, December 16, visiting private homes and retirement facilities. A light soup supper will follow at 5:30. Bring a friend!







Appleaires and Apollo Club Christmas Concert Sunday, December 17 6:00 p.m.

The Wenatchee Valley Appleaires and The Wenatchee Apollo Club will be presenting a joint Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church. Tickets by donation at the door.

Women's Advent Service at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The women of St. Luke's welcome all to attend the Women's Advent Service on Monday, December 4, at 7 p.m. Let God prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of His son's birth. May you take with you a sense of Peace and Goodwill that prevails throughout the season of Advent. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend the Grace Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024, after worship. Our agenda will include approval of our 2024 ministry budget and thanksgiving to leaders who are finishing terms of service.

Budget forums will be held on January 14 and 21, at 9:15 a.m. and after worship, to review the proposed budget for 2024.

LECTIONARY READINGS

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

December 3

1st Sunday of Advent

December 10 2 nd Sunday of Advent
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Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent 4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thess. 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

December 31 1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10--62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40

ANNA & MIRIAM CIRCLES

Anna Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 19, at 10:00 a.m. at Grace. If you have questions, feel free to contact <u>Linda Sinnet</u> or <u>Faye DeJong</u>.

Miriam Circle will meet Tuesday, December 12, 6:15 p.m. at the home of Kathy Jo Evans for an appetizer potluck.



Fern Keith	12/2	Daryl Levine	12/14	Marsha Sjoberg	12/26
Suellen Harris	12/3	Sylvia Hwang	12/16	Jason Lake	12/27
Susan Copner	12/5	Dorothy Packard	12/16	Jan Lee	12/27
Shirley Leslie	12/5	Jim Fisher	12/19	Gavin Godfrey	12/28
T.J. McMahon	12/7	Hollie Olson	12/19	Pat Strand	12/28
Dee Johnson	12/9	Steven Thompson	12/21	Brianne Vertrees	12/29
Carole Richardson	12/10	Tristan Cunderla	12/22	Austin Florea	12/30
Judy Conner	12/11	Paula Salter	12/22	Dayne Russ	12/30
Gloria Foster	12/13	J.J. Dippel	12/23	Sonja Boersma	12/31
Mark Woolsey	12/13	Noah Fenhaus	12/25	Jacob Didesch	12/31
Joyce Fisher	12/14	Sonya Westerman	12/25	Phillip Dormaier	12/31
Michael Johnson	12/14				
Kelly Thompson	1/1	Markus Bentsen	1/13	Alan Smith	1/27
Kelsi Davis	1/3	Dave Richardson	1/15	Carol Christopherson	1/29
Jerry Lawson	1/3	Zoe Jaspers	1/17	Alice Evenhus	1/29
Kara Melton	1/5	Sonia Ramsey	1/18	Raider Liesch	1/29
Barbara Tilly	1/5	Joshua Gale	1/19	Cortez Martinez	1/29
Everly Vertrees	1/6	Kristen Guthrie	1/19	Cruz Martinez	1/29
Natalee Aalgaard	1/9	Lisa Mattix	1/22	Erik Olson	1/29
Courtney Rookard	1/9	Nancy O'Donnell	1/22	Katrina Olson	1/29
Delmer Schauer	1/10	Greta Bentsen	1/23	Matt Olson	1/29
Lisa Heminger	1/11	Jim Mayer	1/23	Erling Rivedal	1/29
Karlene Mayer	1/11	Paul Woolsey	1/24	Joan Heminger	1/31
Dianne Gillin	1/12	Morgan Kardos	1/27	Bill Sinnett	1/31



Midweek programming for our congregation should be a safe experience for all participants. At times, we must consider road conditions. When Wenatchee schools cancel activities due to inclement weather, Grace Lutheran Church will respond in kind and cancel or postpone all activities. We will communicate these decisions to the congregation and the public to the best of our ability.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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9:15 a.m. Growing in Grace 10:30 a.m. Worship Yule Log Activity Following worship 12:00 p.m. Confirmation	7:00 p.m. Appleaires	5 2:45 p.m. Recital (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 p.m. Recital	6 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 5:15 p.m. Together @ Grace 6:00 p.m. Vespers 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	7 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer	8	9:00 - 2:00 Christmas Gift Fair
9:15 a.m. Growing in Grace & Overview of Mark 10:30 a.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Wenatchee Youth Community at YWCA 6:30 p.m. Christmas Concert	7:00 p.m. Appleaires	3:30 p.m. Building & Grounds Team 6:00 p.m. Youth & Community Team 6:00 p.m. Recital 6:15 p.m. Miriam Circle 6:30 p.m. Social Concerns Team	13 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 5:15 p.m. Together @ Grace 6:00 p.m. Vespers 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 5:00 p.m. Church Council 7:00 p.m. Rehearsal	15	16 3:30 p.m. Caroling
9:15 a.m. Growing in Grace 10:30 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Appleaires and Apollo Club Christmas Concert	7:00 p.m. Appleaires 7:00 p.m. Recital	19 10:00 a.m. Anna Circle 7:00 p.m. Recital	20 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 5:15 p.m. Together @ Grace 6:00 p.m. Vespers 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 7:00 p.m. Recital	22	23
24 10:30 a.m. Worship Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	25 Christmas 9:30 a.m. Worship	Chu	27 arch Office Closed	28 I for Christmas H	29 oliday	30
31 10:30 a.m. Worship						

January 2024

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 5:15 p.m. Together @ Grace 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	4 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer	5 9:00 a.m. Quilters 10:00 a.m. WVMTA Mtg.	6
9:15 a.m. Growing in Grace 10:30 a.m. Worship	7:00 p.m. Appleaires	3:30 p.m. Building & Grounds Team 6:00 p.m. Youth and Community Team 6:30 p.m. Social Concerns Team	10 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 5:15 p.m. Together @ Grace 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer	9:00 a.m. Quilters	13
9:15 a.m. Growing in Grace & Budget Forum 10:30 a.m. Worship 12:00 Budget Forum 6:00 p.m. Wenatchee Youth Community at YWCA	7:00 p.m. Appleaires	16 10:00 a.m. Anna Circle 4:00 p.m. Arts Team 6:00 p.m. Fox Trust via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Miriam Circle	17 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 5:15 p.m. Together @ Grace 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 5:00 p.m. Church Council 7:00 p.m. Recital	9:00 a.m. Quilters	20
9:15 a.m. Growing in Grace & Budget Forum 10:30 a.m. Worship 12:00 Budget Forum	Newsletter Deadline 7:00 p.m. Appleaires 7:00 p.m. Recital	23	11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 5:15 p.m. Together @ Grace 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer	9:00 a.m. Quilters 7:00 p.m. Craft Night	27
9:15 a.m. Growing in Grace 10:30 a.m. Worship Congregational Meeting following worship	7:00 p.m. Appleaires	30	31 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 5:15 p.m. Together @ Grace 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace			

COUNCIL CORNER

November 16, 2023

- Council began discussion for 2024 operational budget
- Grace closed out and consolidated bank accounts for investment purposes
- Received \$1,000 Packing Friendship gift from the Woolsey Family
- Received \$1,150 Packing Friendship Grant Program gift from Wenatchee Valley Follies

TREASURER TALK:

10/31/23 Results

CONTINUING TO EXPLORE TREASURER REPLACEMENT. PLEASE CONTACT SUELLEN HARRIS TO DISCUSS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

Offerings through October total \$318,715. This is (\$14,618) under budget. Expenses are \$363,097, \$68,650 under budget. Resulting Net Operating Deficit (\$44,382) compares to projected budget deficit (\$54,032).

	Jan-Oct 2022	Jan-Oct 2023	2023 Budget	Variance
Total Offerings, Misc.	\$307,748	\$318,715	\$333,333	(\$14,618)
Operating Expenses	(380,668)	(363,097)	(431,747)	<u>68,650</u>
Net Margin (Deficit)	(\$72,920)	(44,382)	98,414	\$54,032

Cash on hand \$118,273 includes Treasurer Reserve \$40,000. Cash surplus funded the deficit (\$44,382), thus the decline in cash position.

	12/31/22	10/31/23
Cash Surplus Position	\$119,330	\$78,273
Treasurer Reserve	40,500	40,000
Total	\$159,330	\$118,273

Budget planning for 2024 is in process. Council will be discussing and presenting preliminary budgets to Congregation for review. Budget forums will be available in January.

Gwen Sparks 630-4239. Gwen101@nwi.net



Flower Chart

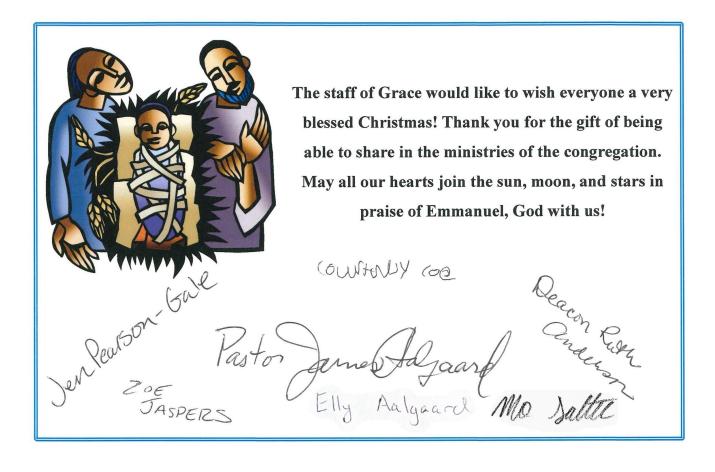
Please note that we have a flower chart in the narthex. If you wish to share a flower arrangement for Sunday worship, please sign up. You can specify that the chosen date is a memorial, anniversary, birthday, etc. if you wish. Thank you for participating with your flower offering.

Morning Prayer

Thursday mornings, at 7:00, you are invited to join us in the sanctuary. Our morning prayer will typically involve reading of scripture, then a time of prayer, then finish with the Lord's Prayer.



Wenatchee Wild Game November 24, 2023



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor James Aalgaard pastor@glcwen.org

Deacon Ruth Anderson

Pastor

Director of Music Ministries

deacon@glcwen.org

Zoe Jaspers Director of Youth & Family Ministries

youthandfamily@glcwen.org

Jen Gale

Office Administrator

office@glcwen.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 a.m.

<u>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</u> Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Friday: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

CONTACT

(509) 663-2189 office@glcwen.org

WEBSITE

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