

## December 2023 Newsletter



### Grace mercy and peace are yours in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Dear Family of God at Grace,  
I pray you all had a blessed Thanksgiving. We all should treasure these special days because they could be our last in this life. The Last Sunday of the Church year reminds us of that fact. Jesus is coming back at the end of

all things and the beginning of all things new! It could be today! Who knows what the Lord has in store.

What a joy it was to baptize our first grandchild, Penelope Morgan Lingsch, on the Last Sunday of the Church year. Thank you for loving my family and embracing us as a part of your family. Grace is a special congregation. It is truly the family of God in this place.

Here we are at the beginning of a new Church Year. Rev. Dr. Art and Linda Just will be arriving this week and will be with us Sunday. Advent is that season in the church that brings anticipation. We anticipate the second coming of our Lord Jesus at the end of time. We also anticipate the first Advent of our King with the celebration of Christmas, the incarnation of Jesus.

Anticipation is a wonderful thing. It brings excitement and hope. It helps us prepare. The anticipation of a wedding day, the birth of a child, or the homecoming of your children who are away at college, brings excitement and hope and helps us stay vigilant in our preparation. We know that there is a day out there that is coming: a day of Joy, that as it approaches, we get butterflies in our stomach.

Anticipation is wonderful, but when we wait for something that is long in coming, anticipation can turn into something else, something sinful. Anticipation that is long awaited can fade into pessimism, fear, depression, anxiety,

and apathy, which leads to unreadiness, being unprepared, and can even lead to anger and hate.

Yes, the Bridegroom has been a long time coming. It is easy to become apathetic and pessimistic about His return. It is easy to stop looking up to see if Jesus is coming. The followers of Jesus who witnessed His ascension into heaven, lived their lives every day looking up, expecting to see Him return as He had departed. Day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, I'm sure their anticipation wavered; after all they were sinners like you and me.

Now, after all this time, it is easy for us to do what the devil wants us to do: to stop looking up, to stop having the anticipation and excitement; to stop having hope and preparation for the coming of our King. He IS coming back soon!

That's what Advent is all about! It is about the forgiveness of the pessimism, fear, depression, anxiety, apathy, unreadiness, unpreparedness, anger, and hate. It is about the King of Glory coming. Advent is about anticipation.

With that in mind our Wednesday evening Advent services will focus on the Old Testament Lessons for Advent. Our theme will be: "The Days are Coming." The Lessons are Jeremiah 23:5-8; Malachi 4:1-6; and Isaiah 40:1-8(9-11).

Activities this month are many. December is jam packed with all kinds of things to do, too many for me to list. We will need your help for the parade and for decorating the church. Please look at the calendar for details of the many activities!

*In His Service,*

*Pastor Lingsch*



## We are home!

We are so very happy to say that we are finally home. This past year has been difficult for everyone impacted by hurricane Ian, but I cannot imagine what it would have been like if we had not had our Grace family to support and walk along side of us. Your love and support have meant more than we can say. Living in the parsonage has been an immense blessing and given us time to put our home back together. Thank you for your prayers, love, and support. As Corban said, "It is almost good our home was flooded, so we can see how many people love us." Thank you, Grace Lutheran!

Love,

*Chris, Kami Jo, Corban, GraceAnn & Lena Jo Mogelvang*

**This is a Wonderful Program for those  
who have lost a loved ones  
December 7, Thursday at 1 pm 1 Session**



## *The Voices of Naples*

*December 7, 2023*

*at 7:00pm*

## **YOUTH EVENTS**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Parents, be sure to pick up your Advent Family Kit from DCE Kami Jo!

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Youth Night, 5-7pm



**December 9<sup>th</sup>:** Preschool and

Sunday School Christmas Play

December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in the Sanctuary.

Hear the good news of our Savior's birth from the "mouths of babes" as they share the music and story of Christmas as only children can. Everyone is invited to stay after the program to enjoy a special visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus and to enjoy snow cones in celebration of this special season.

*Blessings!*

*~Preschool Director Julie Crews & ~DCE Kami Jo Mogelvang*

December 10<sup>th</sup>: The Rite of 1st Communion for new Communicants will be at the 10:30am Worship Service



December 17<sup>th</sup>: Youth Night, Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall from 5-7pm

December 21<sup>st</sup>: College Dinner with Pastor Lingsch and Kami Jo, location and time TBD

Youth are selling raffle tickets for this quilt that was donated to them to use as a fundraiser for their upcoming events. Be sure to get your tickets in the Fellowship Hall or see one of the youth. Drawing will be held December 17.



### Women of Grace!

Dates for upcoming events

Dec 2 - Christmas Luncheon/Tea  
Jan 13 - Membership meeting 10:00am  
Feb 24 - (tentative) Rummage sale  
March - Spring Rally

March 10 - LWML Sunday  
March 31 - Easter Sunday  
April 20 - Membership Meeting 10:00am  
May 7 or 11 - Spring Luncheon



The Women of Grace wish to thank everyone for baking, purchasing, and eating all the goodies from the Annual Holiday Bake Sale. It was a huge success, once again! All proceeds will go to the mission. **Thank you everyone for making this event so successful!**

Thank you to everyone who helped with **Operation Christmas Child**. We had the best year ever! We packed over 100 boxes. Thank you so much for your generosity.



Please take a star(s) from the Giving Tree in the Narthex. By giving to these women and their families, you will make someone's Christmas shine a little brighter this year!

All donations go to the Abused Women's Shelter. Gifts are due back, unwrapped, under the tree by Dec. 8th.

Thank you! DCE Kami Jo





**The Men of Grace** is a gathering of the men in our congregation with the intention of lifting them up and strengthening them to

be true men of grace. We want to become a band of brothers in Christ, who love and serve each other by lifting up one another so that as men of God, we can

live out our calling in our families and in our church family. We call all men of our congregation to be a part of this gathering: for men, guided by men, for the glory of God.

**The group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. December sessions are 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.**

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### Grace Lutheran Preschool

#### Wish List 2023-2024

DECEMBER  
JANUARY  
FEBRUARY

Foam Stickers  
Kid-sized paint brushes  
Jiggle (Googly) Eyes

MARCH  
APRIL  
MAY

Pompoms of all sizes  
Sidewalk Chalk  
Buttons

### **Join in the fun!**

**Sign up in the Narthex to help with the  
Preschool Christmas Craft**

**Friday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall**



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**Christmas Poinsettias can be donated until December 14<sup>th</sup>. Cost of plants is \$19.00 and can also be dedicated to someone's memory, in honor of a loved one, or as a thank offering. Plants can be taken home after the late Christmas Eve service or after the Christmas Day service.**

#### **Altar Flower Donations**

Would you like to remember your birthday or anniversary with a special offering to God? Would you like to remember someone special in your life who is with the Lord? Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary with a special offering of flowers? There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex for you to claim the date for your special occasion. Cost of arrangements is \$45.00.



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**Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year, so the only services for the day will be the Christmas Eve Services at 4:30, 7:00, and 11:00 PM.**

**There will only be one service at 9:00 am on Christmas Day.**



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**Saturday Evening services return January 6 and will continue thru Mar 23, 2023**

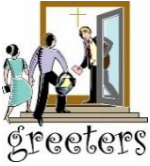
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## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL WORSHIP SERVICES!

There are multiple opportunities for you to volunteer for weekend services at Grace.

We need Ushers, Lectors, Altar Guild Members, Greeters, Crucifers and Acolytes, Sound Board Operators and people to prepare for Coffee Hour.



Click the QR Code or take a picture of it to go to the website.

### Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

We are always looking for volunteers to setup or cleanup Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall. If you want more information, please email Lori at [lorilingsch@yahoo.com](mailto:lorilingsch@yahoo.com)



### Kitchen Request

The kitchen is in desperate need of **plastic containers**. All sizes and shapes are useful, preferably with lids. In addition, the kitchen could use some **gently used sauce pots** with lids.

Linda and Mauro Nobili wish to thank all the wonderful, hard-working volunteers who made the Thanksgiving Food Baskets project such a success! We could not accomplish this task without your help. We picked up 197 cases of food from Aldi's on Saturday, assembled 270 food bags on Sunday, and distributed them to several organizations in Naples and Fort Meyers on Monday. Our food went to two schools and the Children's Network of SW Florida.

THANK YOU!

*Thank you all so much!*

## WEEKLY EVENTS



### Cool Moms Bible Study--Tuesdays

9:00am  
Contact Kami Jo

### Adult Bible Study-- Wednesdays

10:30am Fellowship Hall  
Currently discussing the Old Testament Reading for the upcoming Sunday

### Monthly Book Club—1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday

4:00pm Discussion of "Lies about Human Nature & the Truth That Sets Us Free", by Pastor Christopher S. Esget  
Contact DCS Linda Nobili

### Women's Bible Study--Thursdays

10:00am Contact Kami Jo

### Wednesday Dinner

5:15pm in the Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday Prayer Service

6:30pm Sermon based on Epistle lesson for upcoming Sunday

### Men of Grace--Tuesdays

1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
6:30pm

### Grief Share

Thursdays, 1:00pm  
Will Resume soon

### Quilters--Tuesday's, 10:00am

Fellowship Hall

### Knitters--Tuesdays,

10:00am



### Choristers

Wednesday, 4:15pm

### Grace Chorale

Wednesday,  
7:00pm



### Grace AMR Ringers

Thursday, 6:00pm



# Christmas Cards for our Shut-ins

Please bless our shut-ins this Christmas with a card.

Jane Lange  
111 Moorings Park Drive, #127  
Naples, FL 34105

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Burnette Barker  
1467 13th Ave. N  
Naples, FL 34102

Renata Brantz  
7675 Meadow Lakes Drive, #1  
Naples, FL 34104

Mallie Logan  
6925 Carlisle Ct B307  
Naples, FL 34109

Rev. & Mrs. David Lotz  
589 Wedgewood Way  
Naples, FL 34119

Darline Hanley  
870 Classic Ct #112  
Naples, FL 34110

Georgine Stark  
2329 Queens Way  
Naples, FL 34112

Julia Williams  
1000 Airport Pulling Rd. Apt 2244  
Naples, FL 34104

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Ouillette  
3520 Malaga Way  
Naples, FL 34105

Mr. & Mrs. Don Olson  
10233 Avonleigh Drive  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Doc & Sandy Mogelvang  
P.O. Box 3316  
Naples, FL 34105

Thora Jean Rhode  
1231 Commonwealth Circle, Q106  
Naples, FL 34116



3 Marissa Murray  
5 Larry Polster  
6 Ben McNally  
7 Bill Eardley  
7 Britany Theobald  
8 Abi Nye-Schmitz  
8 Judy Southard  
8 Ainsley Strackbein  
8 Barrett Strackbein

8 Camille Strackbein  
9 Adelaë Koehneke  
11 Ruth Farrell  
11 Ben Nye- Schmitz  
12 Edward Bettke  
13 Barbara Walter  
14 Joanne Hartfelder  
15 Carol Borchelt  
15 Luka Tahirovic  
16 Marsha Davy  
16 Nancy Hartman  
16 Ted Streppa  
17 Evelyn Gomez  
17 Randy Niederbrach  
18 Craig Johnson  
18 Robie Paschke

18 Mary Zeedyk  
20 Burt Gardiner  
21 Mark Greul  
21 Lena Mogelvang  
22 Donna Scharf  
23 Rita DelVecchio  
23 Kim LaFemina  
24 Richard Berndt  
27 Todd Strackbein  
29 Beverly Hecht  
30 Cheryl Strackbein  
31 Alex Greul

9 Brian & Bonnie Heidel  
21 Pete & Kitty Grund  
21 Ted & Patty Sturos

22 Bill & Sandy Eardley  
23 Marty & Ginger Hybl  
31 Brian & Amanda Ohlis



## Missionary of the Month

### Rev. Joel and Deaconess Clarion Fritsche, Church Planter Serving the Lord in the Dominican Republic



The Rev. Joel and Deaconess Clarion Fritsche serve the Lord as missionaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the

Dominican Republic. In this role, Joel plants new churches in the country and forms and develops groups of believers into mature, self-sustaining and self-replicating congregations through Word and Sacrament ministry. Joel also serves as the director of Concordia Seminary and Mercy Center in Palmar Arriba. As Director, he teaches courses and helps prepare men to be pastors who will proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this country and throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Clarion serves as a deaconess at Iglesia Luterana del Pueblo Nuevo, where she directs Sunday school, vacation Bible school and women's Bible studies. She works on mercy projects and visits residents in Pueblo Nuevo. She also supports the wives of the seminarians with Bible studies and other activities to help prepare them for their new roles as pastors' wives. In addition, she assists with curriculum and teaching in the Lutheran schools in Licey and Palmar Arriba.

Joel was born in Houston, Texas. He earned a bachelor's degree in music from Concordia University, Nebraska, Seward, Neb., and received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL). Before becoming a missionary, he served as a

- **BIRTHDAYS:** Joel – Sept. 15, Clarion – Oct. 20, Viktor – Sept. 14, Sergei – Aug. 9, Andrei – April 8
- **ANNIVERSARY:** Dec. 27
- **HOME DISTRICT:** Southern Illinois

pastor of congregations in Wyoming, Texas, and Illinois. He also worked as an admissions counselor at CSL.

Clarion was born and raised in the Republic of Panama. She graduated from Balboa High School in 1996 and received a bachelor's degree in education from Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis., in December 2000. She taught for several years in Lutheran schools before entering the mission field with her family. After much prayer and consideration, she started the deaconess program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, in 2019. She was commissioned as a deaconess on Sept. 12, 2021.

Please pray for the Fritsches as they serve the Lord in the Dominican Republic. Pray that

- God gives them strength and peace in their family life and as they work to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- Ask God to give Joel wisdom and faithfulness as he helps raise up pastors, deaconesses and other church leaders to serve the Dominican church.
- Pray that the Lord would give Clarion wisdom and strength in her new role.
- Pray that God continues to bless Joel and Clarion's service.
- Let us give thanks that Joel, Clarion and their family are serving God's children in the Dominican Republic.



## Tune in for good Lutheran music and Bible teaching.

**KFUO Radio**, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at **kfu.org** and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on

social: **@KFUOradio** on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

**CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org:** Advent music begins this week, and the 12 Days of Christmas runs December 24 – January 6. Study 1 Corinthians 10-11 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study Micah 3-7 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and Melancthon's Greeting to the Apology of the Augsburg Confession on Concord Matters (12/9 at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfu.org](#) or the KFUO Radio app!





**December, 2023**

Learning to acknowledge the abundance of God's blessings to us is the beginning step of putting together the gift plan within our overall estate plans.

"Did you have a good Christmas?" Beginning December 26<sup>th</sup>, you will probably hear that expression a lot. Most answer with a litany of the gifts they received, or the parties or gatherings they attended.

Sam was asked that same question by his good friend Daniel. At first, Sam felt awkward, finding it difficult to formulate an answer. But then he remembered something unique about this Christmas. He and his wife had been working with their LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor to put together an estate plan, that would certainly include inheritance for family but would also include a bold commitment of financial support to their favorite ministry and a missionary halfway around the world. Through regular communication, they had pictures of people who had been baptized and come to faith through that mission activity. They kept all those pictures on their refrigerator. This year, they purposely planned to share their estate plans with their kids. They began by telling them about inheritance. Then they spread out all those pictures from the refrigerator all over the kitchen table where they were sitting, talking about their intended gift for ministry. To their shock and joy, their children didn't even ask questions about inheritance but asked their parents to tell the stories of these who are now part of Jesus' Kingdom. "That time of sharing with our kids was the highlight of my Christmas holiday," Sam said. "Now my kids are asking how they can be part of supporting the same missionary."

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor will encourage you throughout the process, to bless your family beyond inheritance, by including them in the privilege and joy of financially supporting the Lord's work, resulting in the salvation of many. To get started on your plan, Contact Tony Hunt 260-222-1291 or [tony.hunt@lfn.org](mailto:tony.hunt@lfn.org)

Are you recognizing God's abundance? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help.