



GraceNotes Express

A publication highlighting the people and ministries of Grace.

The Week of December 23, 2007

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

5:00PM Candlelight Worship Service

7:00PM Candlelight Worship Service

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25

9:30AM Worship Service with Holy Communion

The office will be closed on Tuesday, December 25th and on Tuesday, January 1st.

Mite Box Sunday

Next Sunday, December 30th, is Mite Box Sunday, time to turn in your filled mite box and replace it with a new one. These gifts, when combined with those from all the other LCMS churches, have a substantial impact upon missions throughout the world.

Your gifts and support to date have totaled \$684.77. Thank God for Christian friends and the special way they care, for the times they lift our spirits, for the faith they're glad to share.

Seasons Blessings to All from the Women of Grace.

Special points of interest:

- Nursery care is available during the services. Please ask an Usher for directions.
- We are equipped with Williams Sound hearing devices to aid persons wanting to improve the audio of the church service.
- Please ask any usher if you wish to receive a large-print bulletin.
- Please turn off any cell phones, pagers, beepers, and other audible electronic devices.



Bible Studies

Wednesday Morning

A men's Bible Class meets each Wednesday morning at 7:30 in the Fellowship Hall of the church. The group is currently studying the book of 1 John. All men are welcome!

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

We invite you to join us for this adult Bible study that meets in Fellowship Hall taught by Pastor Reetz. Everyone is welcome to this informative class.

Dear Family of Grace,

Thank you for the Christmas cards you've sent and also many thanks to the choir for coming to sing. The flowers you sent for Christmas were so lovely. It's wonderful to be a part of such a loving church family.

God's blessings to you,
Kay Bentley

Sunday School News

Dear Sunday School parents,

December 23rd and 30th will be large-group classes for the students. Class time will include fun crafts and interactive activities for the children in a large-group setting; they will meet in the sanctuary as usual.

Small-group classes will resume January 6th when students will meet in the sanctuary at 9:30AM for prayer and praise time before splitting up into small groups.

New Young Adult Bible Study!

A new Bible study is starting for young adults. The theme for the course will be "The Book of Revelation — what does it all mean?" Starting Thursday, January 10th at 7PM, we will meet at the Barnes and Noble on 41 and Pine Ridge to grab a cup of coffee and study the Book of Revelation. Come and try out this new Bible study and bring your friends. Contact Kami Jo with any questions.

Women's Bible Study

This women's Bible study will begin in January and go to Easter, March 23rd. With Lent and Easter approaching, the theme for the study will be Jesus' ministry leading up to the crucifixion. Classes will begin Thursday, January 10th, at 10:00AM at Sunburst Café (2430 Pine Ridge Road, by Target). Contact Kami Jo with any questions.



Hymn Notes

From: Then Sings My Soul
By: Robert J. Morgan

O Little town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks, 1868

At nearly six feet six, weighing three hundred pounds, Phillips Brooks cast a long shadow. He was a native Bostonian, the ninth generation of distinguished Puritan stock, who entered the Episcopalian ministry and pastored with great power in Philadelphia and in Boston. His sermons were topical rather than expositional, and he's been criticized for thinness of doctrine. Nonetheless he's considered one of America's greatest preachers. His delivery came in lightning bursts; he felt he had more to say than time in which to say it.

While at Philadelphia's Holy Trinity Church, Phillips, 30, visited the Holy Land. On December 24, 1865, traveling by horseback from Jerusalem, he attended a five-hour Christmas Eve service at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. He was deeply moved. "I remember standing in the old church in Bethlehem, close to the spot where Jesus was born, when the whole church was ringing hour after hour with splendid hymns of praise to God, how again and again it seemed as if I could hear voices I knew well, telling each other of the *Wonderful Night* of the Savior's birth."

Three years later, as he prepared for the Christmas season of 1867, he wanted to compose an original Christmas hymn for the children to sing during their annual program. Recalling his magical night in Bethlehem, he wrote a little hymn of five stanzas and handed the words to his organist, Lewis Redner, saying, "Lewis, why not write a new tune for my poem." Lewis struggled with the task until the night before the program, he awoke with the music ringing in his soul. He jotted down the melody and when back to sleep. The next day, a group of six Sunday school teachers, and thirty-six children sang "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Brooks was so pleased he named the tune: ST. LOUIS.

Wednesday Night Suppers!

Come to eat — AND STAY TO HELP!

We love having you for supper, but we also **NEED** your help afterwards. Please stay and help us straighten up. Remember how your mother always told you to ask if you could help with the dishes when you went to Aunt Abigail's for dinner.? Well, she was right. Gladden the hearts of the people who worked so hard to make that good food. Help them with the dishes. You'll get more than soft hands (we use Palmolive). You'll get the grateful thanks of our chefs!

There will be no dinner next week, but we invite you to start the new year of Wednesday night suppers with us on Wednesday, January 2nd.

SCRIP NEWS

Don't forget to order Burger King. Every card ordered gives CCLS a chance to win \$500 from Great Lakes Scrip Co.

Remember that PUBLIX is available at a 3% discount in \$50, \$100, and \$200 denominations. This is available "cash and carry," no advance ordering required.

Do you want to "double dip" benefits for CCLS? Go to SchoolPop.com and look at the list of retailers, including Land's End, LL Bean, Amazon, and many others. Many of these retailers ALSO participate in Scrip! If you order from them through SchoolPop, and use Scrip for payment, you make two contributions to the school!

As always, if you have questions or comments, you can call or e-mail. 239-384 9089. glanderktf@comcast.net



Prayer Requests

Please call Jean Hennink if you have a request for our prayer chain



All You Need to Give Is Blood

Anyone who successfully donates blood between Dec. 24-Jan. 7 will receive a free movie ticket from the Community Blood Center, the primary supplier of blood products to every hospital in Collier County.

The center at 311 9th St. N., Suite 108 in the Medical Plaza Bldg. will be open from 8AM to 1PM Dec. 24 and 31st and from 8AM-5PM Dec. 26-28. Call 436-5455 for more information.

**Hollywood 20 Blood Drive, 12-6PM:
Wednesday, December 26, Saturday, December 29 and Sunday, December 30. (To donate on Wed., December 26, your last donation should have been on or before October 31.)**

Donate to Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity's home store is now accepting donations of construction materials as well as appliances.

If you or someone you know is getting a new refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, washing machine or dryer, let us know. We'll pick up the old one if it's in good shape and sell it in our store.

In addition, if you are renovating, we will take your old cabinets, countertops, doors, windows, even your old hurricane shutters.

Contact Mike Werner at 455-8439 if you have any questions.

QUILTS WARM THE HEART!

Our quilters recently donated 21 of their handmade quilts to migrant families in East Naples. Their efforts will make Christmas warm and bright and cozy for others. We celebrate the wonderful results of their time and talents.

If you can sew or iron or just tie yarn to tack our colorful quilts, please join the quilters on Thursday mornings at 10AM. They're taking a well-deserved break, but they'd love to see you in January.

Extensions and Emails

Church Phone—261-7421

Church fax # - 261-9337

Church website:

www.graceofnaples.com

- 1—Times of service
- 2—Directions to the church
- 3—Pastor Reetz
revpreetz@graceofnaples.com
- 4—Church secretary (Ruth)
secretary@graceofnaples.com
- 5—Music Director (Jonathan)
musicdirector@graceofnaples.com
- 6—Preschool Director (Julie)
preschooldirector@graceofnaples.com
- 7—Director of Christian Education
(Kami Jo) dce@graceofnaples.com
- 8—Preschool emergency



Stewardship Corner Second Sunday in Advent December 23, 2007

Romans 1:1-7: "Ready-Set-Come!" Who are God's watchful and wise stewards? They are the people of God who by God's grace live in obedience to God's will to demonstrate their faith and love through Christian acts of loving and giving.

Attendance (12-16-2007)

8:00am Divine Service	100
10:30am Divine Service	174
8:00am Communion	103
10:30am Communion	115
Adult Bible Class	58

Women of Grace January Meeting

The Women of Grace will meet Tuesday, January 8, 2008. The meeting will begin at 11:00AM followed by a "Brown Bag Lunch" with dessert and drinks begin served by Lois Schuchmann and Betty Yock.

invites you to experience the sounds of

Elisabeth von Trapp

Born to a rich musical heritage, Elisabeth is the granddaughter of legendary Maria and Baron von Trapp, whose story inspired "The Sound of Music." Elisabeth's concert repertoire ranges from Bach to Broadway .. Schubert to Sting.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2008—6:30PM
featuring local church choirs

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2008—
6:30-7:30PM**
featuring children sing-alongs

**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
777 MOORING LINE DRIVE.**

\$100 VIP ticket—includes VIP party, priority seating, name listed in program
\$35 advance general admission ticket
\$40 at the door

\$85 Family Package — includes 2 adult & 2 children's tickets

To order tickets, call 813-676-9511 or visit www.lsfnet.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The price of altar flowers is now \$70 for the two bouquets each Sunday. Therefore, as of January 1, 2008, you can purchase one altar bouquet for \$35. The first name on the "slot" for each Sunday will have the preference of choosing the color for that Sunday.

The occasion or event (anniversary, birthday, thanksgiving, etc.) will be listed as you wish in the church bulletin.

The sign-up sheet is hanging on the east bulletin board in the narthex. Or you may call Mallie Logan (594-8904) to set your date on the calendar.

Our flower bouquets come from Floral Designs by Heidi. Each arrangement has a generous amount of very fresh, colorful flowers and the design is beautiful.

Flowers are another wonderful way to thank our Heavenly Father for His goodness and mercy!

The Lutheran Church Down Under 1:00PM, Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Pastor Hubert Temme, a native Australian, will speak of his ministry experiences in Australia, beginning as a missionary to the Aborigines in the Outback. During his thirteen years of ministry in Australia, Pastor Temme established a new congregation near Adelaide, followed by a move to Glenelg, a local beach resort. He also served as an Army Reserve Chaplain, chairperson of the Board of Aboriginal Missions and guest speaker on the Lutheran Hour. After leaving Australia, Pastor Temme served congregations in Illinois, Maryland, Hong Kong, and Grand Cayman and is now retired in Florida.

The Women of Grace invite the entire congregation to join us at 1:00PM on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 to hear this interesting and entertaining program about the Lutheran Church and its people 15,000 miles from Naples.