



# GraceNotes Express

A publication highlighting the people and ministries of Grace.

The Week of December 9, 2007

## What is this thing called Advent?

Once upon a time, in 4th and 5th century Gaul and Spain, Advent was a preparation not for Christmas, but for Epiphany. That's the early January celebration of such diverse events in Jesus' life as His baptism, the miracle at Cana and the visit of the Magi. In those days, Epiphany was set aside as an opportunity for new Christians to be baptized and welcomed into the church. So believers spent Advent's 40 days examining their hearts.

It was not until the 6th century that Christians in Rome began linking this season explicitly to the coming of Christ. But at the time, and for centuries after, the "coming" that was celebrated was not the birth of Jesus, but His Second Coming. It was not until the Middle Ages that the church began using the Advent season to prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. And even then, this newer sense of the Lord's advent or coming did not supplant the older sense, the Second Coming. And the muted, Lent-like mood of penitential preparation remained alongside the joyous anticipation of Jesus' birthday.

So, the modern liturgy divides Advent into a period through December 16th, during which the focus is Christ's Second Coming and a period from December 17th to the 24th, focusing on His birth. It starts with sobering passages foretelling the birth of a Messiah and New Testament passages pointing out John the Baptist's exhortations and the angels' announcements.

Every year these rich scriptural reminders and the traditional prayers that accompany them set my blood rushing a little faster and bring a rising excitement: Christ came with plenty of prior notice! Prophets and angels joined to proclaim His coming! And now I can join, too, with the cloud of witnesses stretching back to apostolic times, in the same proclamation!

And in the protected, quiet times of meditation, I can respond as I imagine believers have done on every Advent since the tradition began: I can bow my head and prepare my heart to receive the One who is always present, but who seems distant in the busyness of the season. I can mourn for my hardness of heart. I can hope in His grace. And I can rejoice that in answer to the cry, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," He came. Would I really be able to do this — in the midst of December's commercial rush of lights, decoration, present-buying and piped-in carols — without a gently insistent, weekly reminder through the lessons, liturgy, music and preaching during Advent?

### 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.**

## To ALL Members of Grace

This Sunday is a very important voters meeting after the second service. This time of the year we present our budget estimate for the coming year. In addition, an important constitution change will be presented that must be ratified by two (2) meetings of the voters. Thirdly, elders and chairpersons of all the boards will be presented and elected for a two (2) year term. I challenge all members of Grace to make time and attend this important meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Olson, President



### 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.

#### No Women's Bible Study

There will be no women's bible study during the Advent season. We will continue in January with a brand new bible study series. Have a blessed Advent season

## Welcome, New Members!

We are highly pleased to welcome the following new members into our fellowship at Grace:

Received through adult confirmation:

- Amanda Camisa
- Joseph Blasi

Received through a transfer of membership:

- Kami Jo Kuesel from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Plum City, WI
- Dirk and Sylvia Rheker and their sons, Richard and Alex, from St. Michael's Lutheran Church, New Canaan, CT
- Pastor Carl and Dorothy Roemer from Grace Lutheran Church, Vestal, NY



Congratulations to Whitney Winfield. Whitney is a finalist in this year's NFAA Young Artists' Program. This program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts recognizes artistically talented high school seniors and is the nominating agency for Presidential Scholarships in the Arts.



### Hymn Notes

From: Hymn Notes for Bulletins  
By: Austin C. Lovelace

**Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**  
Georg Weissel, 1590-1635  
Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

This is the most famous paraphrase of Psalm 24, and reveals a spirit of praise and hope unexpected from the depths of the dreadful years of the Thirty Years' War. Its theme is the preparation for the Messiah's coming, and is widely sung during the season of Advent.

### Anthem

**Come, O Come Expected Jesus**  
Setting by: Jeffrey Blersch

Come, O Come Expected Jesus,  
Born to set your people free.  
From our fears and sins release us,  
By Your death on Calvary.  
Israel's strength and consolation  
Hope to all the earth impart.  
Dear desire of every nation  
Joy of every longing heart

**Thank You** to Kami Jo Kuesel for playing his trumpet as part of our worship this morning!

### Wednesday Night Suppers!

Come and join us for dinner. Bring \$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family, be there at 5:15 for the best value in Naples.

**To help us cook just enough for everyone, please sign up and let us know you'll be coming.** The sign-up sheet is in the narthex on the bulletin board. Y'all come!

Wednesday dinner at Grace is followed at 6:30 by Evening Prayer Service and the adult choir practice at 7:00PM. Join us for any or all of the Wednesday night activities.

### 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](mailto:glanderktf@comcast.net)



### Prayer Requests

Please call Jean Hennink if you have a request for our prayer chain at 261-8697.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

There is an opportunity December 15<sup>th</sup> to volunteer at Habitat for Humanity. Jobs range from painting to hammering nails, there is something for everyone! If you would like to come to the worksite for a few hours of your time then please sign up on the narthex bulletin board! (Must be 14 years of age or older). Thanks!



### 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.

### 'Tis the Season of Giving

So give blood and you can get a gift, too! Get a free movie ticket when you successfully donate blood at any of the drives listed below. Be sure to give your family's name or the church's name so your donation is properly credited.

**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.)**

## 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

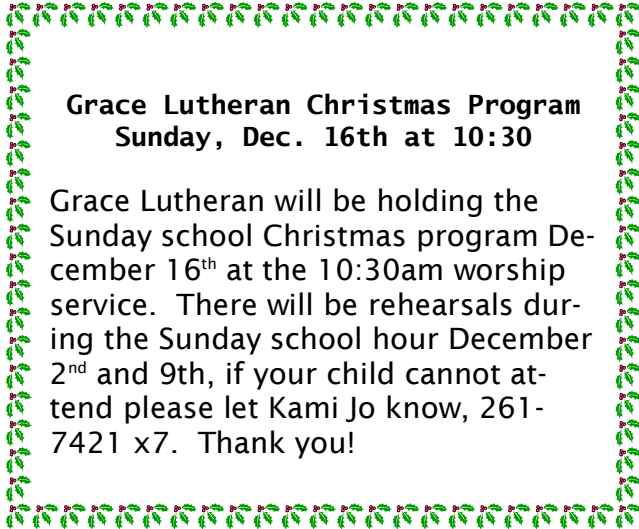


### Stewardship Corner First Sunday in Advent December 9, 2007

Romans 15:4-13: "Ready—Set — Come!"  
Who are God's watchful and wise stewards?  
They are people of hope who, while waiting for our Lord's return, live in harmony with one another and practice hospitality and other Christian acts of kindness.

#### Attendance (12-2-2007)

8:00am Divine Service	135
10:30am Divine Service	128
8:00am Communion	113
10:30am Communion	110
Adult Bible Class	49



**Grace Lutheran Christmas Program  
Sunday, Dec. 16th at 10:30**

Grace Lutheran will be holding the Sunday school Christmas program December 16<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30am worship service. There will be rehearsals during the Sunday school hour December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, if your child cannot attend please let Kami Jo know, 261-7421 x7. Thank you!

**LIVE NATIVITY AND CONCERT  
Friday, Dec. 14**

Messiah Lutheran Church and youth and Christ Community Lutheran School will present a live nativity on Dec. 14 from 6:30-8:30 on the grounds of Messiah Lutheran Church (5800 Golden Gate Parkway). The nativity will feature live animals, a "Taste of Christmas from all Nations" and a Christmas praise and worship concert following the live nativity at 8:30. A free-will offering will be taken for the CCLS middle school trip.

For more information, call Messiah at 455-2500.



**Preschool Christmas Play  
6:00PM, Thursday, Dec. 20th**

Come and enjoy the 3 and 4-year-olds as they perform their Christmas play, "Angel, Angel!" on Thursday, December 20th at 6:00PM. We guarantee you'll leave with the Christmas spirit after this happy short musical.

**PAUL TODD CONCERT  
December 11 at 7PM**

Talented musician and entertainer Paul Todd will perform at Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church at 7PM on Tuesday, December 11th in a concert that will benefit Habitat for Humanity and other church service projects. Thrivent for Lutheran will provide matching funds. Tickets are \$20 each; please make your checks payable to "Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church." Tickets are available from Barb Hillier (261-9219) or you may call the church at 775-3932.

**Christ Community Lutheran School  
presents  
Savior of the Nations, Come!  
7:00PM, Thursday, December 20,  
at Faith Lutheran Church**

The Old Testament, some of it written 1,000 years before the birth of Christ, speaks of the coming Messiah — and those prophecies point directly to Jesus. The Christ Community Lutheran School Christmas program matches Old and New Testament readings to hymns and student-created artwork relating to the birth and redemptive work of our Savior, Jesus. It is our prayer that this program, no doubt only a small element of your Christmas season festivities, will help you to personally reflect on how truly amazing a gift is this long-awaited birth — Savior of the Nations, Come!

All families and friends of Christ Community are invited to "Savior of the Nations, Come" at 7PM December 20th at Faith Lutheran Church.





### Christmas Ornaments Just for You!

The Women of Grace are pleased to offer you a Commemorative 50th Anniversary Christmas Ornament depicting Grace Lutheran Church on a beautiful 3" bulb. This lovely ornament was produced by Bronner's Christmas Wonderland in Frankenmuth, MI. We now have a keepsake that will last for the next fifty years. Price of the ornament is \$10.

They are now available for sale before and after Sunday services at the Visitor's Center. Stop by and purchase a special memento of Grace for your Christmas tree.

### 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!



### THANK YOU!

On behalf of the WOMEN OF GRACE, we wish to thank **all of you loyal supporters** who have purchased **pecans, candies** and a variety of **nuts** for our fundraiser to **benefit missions**. We very much appreciate your participation in helping spread the Gospel in the mission fields of West Africa as well as here at home.

We still have some items in stock in case you need more "goodies" at home for the holidays ahead or to use as gifts. Just call me and I will be happy to tell you what items are left. (Phone #: 263-7772)

Jean Freche

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

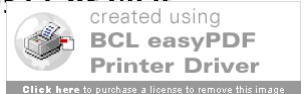
**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
777 MOORING LINE DRIVE.**

\$100 VIP ticket—includes VIP party, priority seating, name listed in program

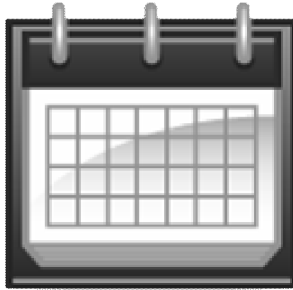
\$35 advance general admission ticket  
\$40 at the door

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

To order tickets, call 813-676-9511 or visit [www.lsfnet.org](http://www.lsfnet.org).



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**The New Year is coming...  
do you have a calendar?**

Grace Lutheran youth group is selling Christian wall calendars for 2008. The calendars will make a great Christmas gift! Youth will be selling the calendars TODAY after the 8am and 10:30am worship services. These calendars include beautiful pictures and a Bible verse for each week. The money raised from the calendars will go towards our summer mission trip to Camp Matz where we work with disabled adults.