

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF January 3rd THROUGH January 10th

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES

STUDY	TOPIC/TITLE	WHEN & WHERE
Adult Study	One Christ, Many Creeds	10:30 AM – Fellowship Hall (also live-streamed on Facebook)

STEWARDSHIP NOTE: Isaiah 60:6b – *“They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.”* Faith in God moves the heart toward thanksgiving, which moves us toward making offerings to the Lord in His House. It’s simply what Christians do. Our thanksgiving to our Lord for all His benefits to us simply must overflow into sacrificial giving to the Lord. What Isaiah prophesied, the Wise Men did, and we still do today by giving with a thankful heart.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God for a prosperous 2021 by John and Elyse Adams.

PAX DOMINI: During the *Pax Domini*, “The Peace of the Lord,” in the Communion liturgy, I will hold the host and the chalice in my hands while facing the congregation. This action signifies that the Lord gives us peace in this Sacrament through the forgiveness of our sins. Martin Luther writes in the Small Catechism, *“What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?”* These words, ‘Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,’ show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.” This practice is followed in many LCMS congregations, including several in our area. – Pastor Crane

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: This Saturday, January 9th, at 9:00 AM, please join us as we take down the Christmas decorations. Many hands make light work!

ATTENTION ALL BOARDS: All boards are asked to meet and select their chair prior to the council meeting on **Tuesday, January 12th**. The chair of each board is asked to attend the council meeting at **6:30 PM** that evening.

ATTENTION ALL BOARD CHAIRS AND OFFICERS OF GRACE: It’s that time of year! Annual Reports are due to the church secretary by **Friday, January 15th**! Also, newsletter items are due by **January 15th**. Thank you!

FOOD PANTRY: If you would like to donate food pantry items, you can drop them off at Grace between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM Monday – Thursday. Please be mindful of the dates of expiry on the packages. If you need food, please take what you need. There are bags available on the shelves. The food pantry is located up a few steps from the elevator on the main floor.

THANK YOU for the many cards and gifts we received for Christmas. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. We pray that you all have a Blessed New Year as together we serve our Lord at Grace. — The Crane Family

COVID-19 WORSHIP GUIDELINES:

- We can hold in-person worship services at 50 percent of our seating capacity.
 - Our nave can hold about 300 people, so 50 percent of that is 150.
- Social distancing (six-foot distance between people, except for members of the same family) will be followed as much as possible.
 - Please keep your distance as best you can from other people.
 - Some rows of pews are blocked off.
- Per the City of Racine's mask ordinance, all people aged five years and older must wear a mask or face covering inside our building unless exempted for medical, hearing, or other reasons.
- A linen dipped in alcohol will be used to wipe the rim of the common cup (chalice) between communicants.
- The individual cups will be spaced throughout the trays to reduce the risk of touching another cup besides your own.
- Please keep some distance from others while at the Communion rail (families can remain together). You may kneel at the rail or remain standing.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on stands near the trays for the used Communion cups for those who wish to use it.
- The children will not come forward for Catechism Time.
- The offering plates will be located at the back of the nave.
- The Fellowship Pads will not be completed at this time.
- **Please contact me if you or your family would like to receive Communion from me privately, either at church or at your home.**

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions, please let me know. May God bring an end to this pandemic soon. – Pastor Crane

ELECTRONIC GIVING is still available at Grace through Vanco. The electronic giving process has been smooth, and there have been no issues here at Grace. Also, we can now accept credit card giving. Questions can be answered by John Adams or Doug Alexander. Enrollment forms are available in the Office Equipment Room. Completed forms should be returned in a sealed envelope and placed into John's or Doug's mailbox outside the church office.

LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE GIFT? Grace Lutheran Church has 100th Year Anniversary cookbooks for sale for \$15. Be sure to ask for the Addendum that goes with it. A brief history of our church with pictures is included. The cookbook contains a lot of international and legacy recipes. Contact Becky Saxena, Connie Abrahamson, or Becky Gardner for more information.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in your mail slot in the back of the nave.

EPIPHANY CHORAL VESPERS will be held at Luther Memorial Chapel in Shorewood, WI on **Sunday, January 3rd, 2021, at 3:00 PM**. Sacred music of the season will be performed by singers from various church choirs during this *Music at Historic Trinity* event. For more information, see www.trinitymilwaukee.org/music/.