

g GRACE CHURCH

Bi-Weekly E-Newsletter



From the Lead Team

Good day Church,

As we approach the Christmas season, do we find ourselves caught up in a flurry of traditions? We shop for gifts, gather around tables with food, and decorate our homes with lights and trees. These are all beautiful things that can bring joy and connection, but I want to ask myself, do they point us toward the true meaning of Christmas, or do they simply fill our schedules and our homes with temporary comforts?

Luke 2:10-11 (NIV) *"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'"*

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. It is the announcement that God has come to us in the flesh. We don't stay at the manger, as we have the whole Bible but realize it is the good news that brings great joy, not just for a season, but for eternity!!

I've got to ask, how often do I think of eternity when December countdown comes, in the way I view Christmas? I don't think the customs themselves are wrong. Surely, shopping for gifts, preparing special meals, and gathering with loved ones are all good things, right? They can reflect love, generosity, and fellowship; these are values that Jesus embodies. However, focus on traditions sometimes overshadows the gospel message.

For example, spending hours shopping, stressing for that one right gift can make us forget the true gift that Christmas offers: the gift of Jesus, who

came to redeem and transform our lives.

Preparing a feast can be a beautiful time of fellowship, but when it becomes the primary focus, we risk missing the feast that Jesus offers, the feast of grace and salvation. The lights that decorate our homes, while cheerful, are meant to remind us of the light of the world who came to dispel the darkness of sin and hopelessness.

As we celebrate Christmas, let's be intentional about how we connect our traditions with the gospel. Take time to reflect on why Jesus came, to save us from sin and death and to bring us into a right relationship with God. Let every tradition be a stepping stone that leads us back to the gospel truth!

This year, as you shop, as you cook, and as you decorate, make it a time of worship. Let your heart and actions proclaim what the angels declared to the shepherds so long ago.

May your Christmas be full of joy, but more importantly, may it be full of Christ.

- Matt Neufeld



Sunday School

The countdown is on! In just over a week we get to share our Christmas concert with our church family. The concert will be happening during the church service (10:45am) on December 14th.

It will be live-streamed, but made private on our YouTube channel after the service. Access by request.

Reminder: there will be no Sunday School on Dec 21 & 28. We will meet back together again on Jan 4th!

grace youth

Last Week

"Who they Thought Jesus Would be." The Israelites had been waiting for a long time for their Messiah and had specific expectations for Him—a Political Rescuer, Nationalistic Hero, Religious Rule-Enforcer, etc. He was all these things, but not in the way they expected. We also struggle with this, don't we? We have expectations for who we think Jesus should be for us: fix my problems, make my life easy, emergency only, or our personal genie. It's when we submit to Him, allow Him to transform our hearts and minds we are able to see Him more clearly, as our Saviour, Redeemer, King, Father, Friend, etc.

This Week

Jr. Youth

- Dec. 8 - Regular Youth Night - 7:00-9:00
 - Topic - Jesu Shows Up
 - Bring your Bibles!

Sr. Youth

- Dec. 10 - Regular Youth Night - 7:30-9:30
 - Topic - Jesu Shows Up
 - Bring your Bibles!

Upcoming / Youth Retreat Dates

Jr. Youth

Dec. 15 - Christmas Party!

Jan. 5 - Regular Youth Night

Jan. 12 - Regular Youth Night

Feb. 13-15 - Jr. Youth Retreat - Winkler Bible Camp

Sr. Youth

Dec. 17 - Christmas Party!

Jan. 7 - Regular Youth Night

Jan. 12 - Regular Youth Night

Jan. 30-Feb.1 - Sr. Youth Retreat - Camp Cedarwood

TWELVE - Youth Communication

We will be moving all youth communication to TWELVE. This will replace the parent emails over time.

- **Parents**, please download the TWELVE app from your app store, then scan the appropriate QR code for you.
- If you have youth in both Jr. & Sr. Youth, please scan both.
- **Sr. Youth** will be signed up for their small group chats in the next couple of weeks by their small group leaders.

For a greater understanding of the app, visit: <https://www.twelveapp.co/>



Jr. Youth Parent QR Code

Scan this to be added to the Jr. Youth Parent Chat



Sr. Youth Parent QR Code

Scan this to be added to the Sr. Youth Parent Chat

As always, if you have any questions, please ask :)

Blessings,
Pastor Brad



Prayer and Praise

Pray for our shut-ins and those with on-going health issues:

At Home:

- Linda Hiebert
- Gladys Wiebe
- Anne Enns
- Helene Kuhl
- Linda Jenkins
- Florence Dyck
- Dennis Wiebe
- Marie Brown
- Marilyn Hildebrand
- Alexander Sauer
- Allan Derksen

Notre Dame: Irene Hildebrand

In Salem Home: Helen Loepky
Elva Hildebrand
Agnes Giesbrecht
Maria Klassen

In Palliative Care: Tom Hesom

Looking for Turkeys for UGM!



If you would like to join us in supplying tasty, delicious, nutritional, roasted turkey to UGM's street guests, we will be delighted to receive a gift of one from you.

Drop off turkeys to the church before Dec 27 and we will deliver them to UGM with our regular sandwich deliveries.

Thank you so much for your help! Have a merry Christmas as you celebrate the birth of the King of the world, the only Lord, Jesus our Messiah.



Congratulations Newlyweds!

Congratulations to Landon & Kenna Waldner who were married on November 22nd.

May God bless you with many wonderful years together!



Welcome New Members!



On November 16th we welcomed Jordan Dyck, Pete & Tina Hiebert, Isaiah Nissley, Len & Marge Giesbrecht & Karan Sandagalla as members of Grace Church.

Mark Your Calendars

Here are some things to note:

Young Adults

- Christmas Party Tonight (Dec 5)
- Weekly Bible Study resumes on Jan 9
- Join the WhatsApp group to keep up with social events happening in December

Adult Bible Study

- NO Adult Bible Study in December
- Will resume on January 13th

Ladies Breakfast

- Thursday, December 11 at 9:00 am
- King's Deli

Christmas Eve

- Offices will close at noon
- Service begins at 6:00 pm

Christmas Day

- Offices will be closed
- No service

Boxing Day

- Offices will be closed