

# g GRACE CHURCH

Bi-Weekly E-Newsletter



## His Birth and Our New Birth

By Oswald Chambers

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." —Matthew 1:23

**His Birth in History.** "...that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35). Jesus Christ was born *into* this world, not *from* it. He did not emerge out of history; He came into history from the outside. Jesus Christ is not the best human being the human race can boast of— He is a Being for whom the human race can take no credit at all. He is not man becoming God, but God Incarnate— God coming into human flesh from outside it. His life is the highest and the holiest entering through the most humble of doors. Our Lord's birth was an advent— the appearance of God in human form.

**His Birth in Me.** "My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you..." (Galatians 4:19). Just as our Lord came into human history from outside it, He must also come into me from outside. Have I allowed my personal human life to become a "Bethlehem" for the Son of God? I cannot enter the realm of the kingdom of God unless I am born again from above by a birth totally unlike physical birth. "You must be born again" (John 3:7). This is not a command, but a fact based on the authority of God. The evidence of the new birth is that I yield myself so completely to God that "Christ is

formed" in me. And once "Christ is formed" in me, His nature immediately begins to work through me.

**God Evident in the Flesh.** This is what is made so profoundly possible for you and for me through the redemption of man by Jesus Christ.

## Christmas Schedule

December 18

Regular Sunday School and Coffee Time  
Sunday School Christmas Concert begins at 10:45 am

December 23 - Office will be closed

December 25

No Sunday School or Coffee Time  
Service begins at 10:45 am

December 26 - Office will be closed

January 1

No Sunday School or Coffee Time  
Service begins at 10:45 am

January 2 - Office will be closed



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# Youth



## This Week's Recap:

A huge thank you to all of the youth who came to the Church Banquet this last Sunday to help serve. I have heard from so many who were in attendance how impressed they were with how the youth served and handled themselves! I couldn't be more proud of how well it went and how all of the youth stepped up to help out and serve, even if it was quite out of their comfort zone. The youth raised \$5500! This money will help lower the cost of our winter retreats that will be happening in the new year.

## This Next Week:

### Wednesday (Dec. 14): Joint Christmas Party

- ◆ Thrift Store Themed
- ◆ Youth are encouraged to shop at one of Winkler's many thrift stores for their outfit as there will be prizes for "best dressed."
- ◆ There is a \$5 white elephant gift exchange, minute-to-win-it games, and great food!

## Looking Ahead:

### Sr. Youth Winter Retreat

- ◆ Jan. 20-22 - Camp Cedarwood
- ◆ Youth and their Friends are welcome to come
- ◆ The deadline for registration is Dec. 21.

### Jr. Youth Winter Retreat

- ◆ Feb. 17-19 - Winkler Bible Camp
- ◆ More information to come

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

Blessings,

Pastor Brad



# Sunday School

Wow, here we are in December already! We have been putting together our Christmas program which Sunday School will be presenting to the church during the service on December 18<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to walk through history with you, as the students act out the story of our Saviors birth!



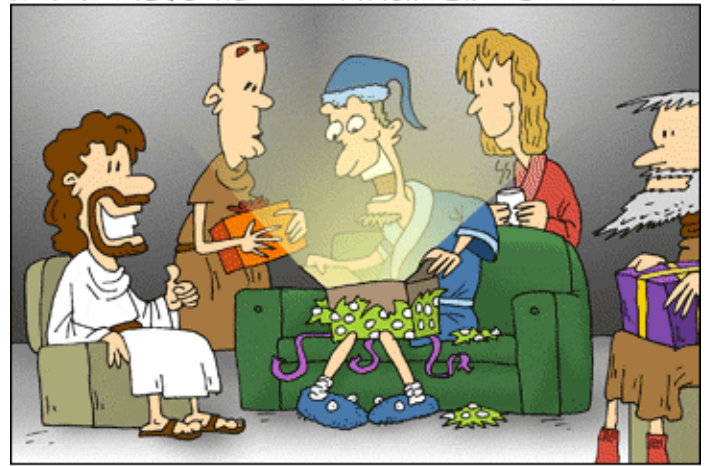
We will be practicing this Sunday during Sunday School in the sanctuary, if your kids can make it, that would be great!

There will be NO Sunday School on December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>. We will gather back together again on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, we are continuing to collect money for uniforms for the children at Esperanza orphanage in Mexico. We are getting close to the half way mark of reaching our goal of \$800. We look forward to seeing how many we can get by February when the missions trip team leaves!

- The Sunday School Team

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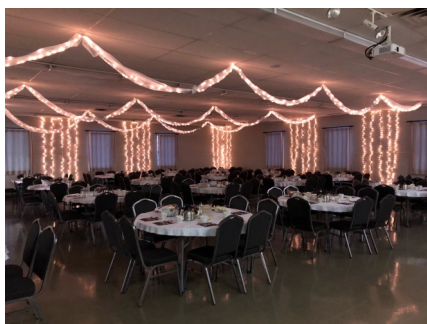


Thanks to Andrew S.

12-21-2007

ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!

# Grace Christmas Banquet



Thank you to the food service team and the youth ministry for putting on a wonderful Christmas banquet. The food was amazing. And the youth did a great job of serving.

Thanks Brad and Kara for leading us in games and Christmas carols. Thanks to the youth leaders and Mel Friesen for the beautiful decorating. Special thanks to Lisa Friesen (Cornerstone Celebrations) for the tulle and to Rey & Heidi for the lights.

It really was a wonderful evening!



## Partnership Focus



Wow! It's almost Christmas!

Both Winkler Bible Camp and Pembina Valley Bible Camp had a successful summer and are into the busyness of the winter season, retreats and rental groups.

WBC has been very busy preparing "Christmas Glow in the Country" - a drive-through light show. The first few nights also include supper which have been successful. If you enjoy Christmas lights then you should definitely stop by and take in the spectacular displays. It is a fundraising event and costs \$20 per vehicle. Go to [www.christmasglowinthecountry.com](http://www.christmasglowinthecountry.com) for more information and to reserve your spot.

PVBC has hired James Shiels for the camp manager position. Their "Split and Stack" and "Ride-a-thon" fundraisers went well with lots of wood chopped to heat the camp through the winter.

Please pray for God's continued guidance and protection as they strive to serve the community and build God's kingdom.

## Prayer and Praise

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

- Marie Klassen
- Katherine Krahn
- Marie Brown
- Anne Enns
- Marilyn Hildebrand
- Linda Hiebert
- Helen Gerbrand
- Mary Friesen
- Dennis Wiebe
- Agnes Giesbrecht
- Maria Loewen
- Karl Redekop
- Henry Hiebert
- Margaret Ayala
- Linda Jenkins
- Abe Hildebrand
- Harv Thiessen