

# Grace to You

December 2013 ~  
January 2014  
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*Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

In the parish in which I grew up we would sing this hymn as the opening hymn on all four Sundays of Advent, adding verses each week and filling the sanctuary with the images of the God whom we worshiped and awaited: Emmanuel, Wisdom, Lord of Might, Rod of Jesse's Stem, Key of David, Dayspring, and Desire of Nations. The music brought out a beautifully shared sense of expectation as our faith, our hope, our imagination, our prayers were wound up together in our song.

During Advent, God's people lean forward. Our ears are tuned to the words of the prophets and our eyes and hearts look toward the horizon. And if we allow ourselves to be a little more childlike, a little more poet-like, I bet that together, we can even hear creation sing.

Because the longing is here all around us. The desire for a loving God to be present with us, for a liberating, joy-filled light to be kindled in our midst – these are common hopes shared by God's people throughout the world. Advent presents a holy opportunity to think BIG about God, a God who comes to fulfill a vision that goes beyond our hoped for sense of peace, a God who in a mysterious sort of prophetic grace, came to us first as a child.

This Advent we will gather and we will sing. We will sing the songs that carry the promise of the season. We will lean forward and embrace the prayers that reveal our longings for God. And together we'll look out over the edges of this day knowing that Emmanuel shall come to us, shall come to all.

*Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,  
And be yourself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

Peace,

*Jen*

# *The Christmas Season at Grace Episcopal Church*

December 22

## *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:15am Holy Eucharist

9:15am Wrapping the Star Tree Gifts

Intergenerational\*

10:30am Holy Eucharist with Lessons and Carols \*



December 24

## *Christmas Eve*

5:30pm Music by Grace Children and Youth\*

6:00pm Holy Eucharist with Spontaneous Kids' Pageant\*

This is a service especially geared to children. Filled with traditional Christmas carols, the liturgy will be spoken to young ears with the kids participating in a "spontaneous" pageant during sermon time.

10:00pm Choral Service of Christmas Carols

10:30pm Traditional Midnight Service of Holy Eucharist

December 29

## *The First Sunday of Christmas\**

10:30am Holy Eucharist

(NOTE: only one service this morning.)



January 5

## *The Second Sunday of Christmas\**

8:15am Holy Eucharist

9:15am Education Hour \*

10:30am Holy Eucharist \*

\*Childcare provided at these services



## **Christmas Poinsettias and Altar Flowers**

**Envelopes for Christmas Flower donations** are in the pews. Please clearly fill out the information, and place in the collection plate or return it to the church office by December 18.

**Altar Flowers for 2014**—Sign-up sheet will be on a clipboard in the Commons. Multiple parties may sign up for each Sunday. Suggested donation is \$50-\$75 which can be submitted to the office. The altar vase liners will be taken to a florist weekly, and the flowers will be divided for delivery to home bound parishioners after the Sunday services.

**Sunday Forum**

**9:15-10:15am in the Forum Room**

**November 24-December 15**

**Embracing a Life of Meaning:**

**Kathleen Norris on Discovering What Matters**

Kathleen Norris is an award-winning poet, writer and author of four New York Times bestsellers. She also happens to be an Episcopalian. “Her work is intimate and historical, rich in poetry and meditations, brimming with exasperation and reverence, deeply grounded in both nature and spirit, sometimes funny and often provocative.” In this series she will guide us (via DVD) through conversations on what matters, topics like belief, the Bible, community, place and ourselves, created in the image of God. Join us for this series that will carry us through the season of Advent.

**December 22 Intergeneration Christmas Gift Wrap**

We’ll gather in the Forum Room to wrap presents for our Community Housing Partnership Families. Look for the Star Tree in the Commons during Advent. Each star will have a gift listed that is a “wish” of one of our CHP family members. We’ll wrap all that we receive and deliver the gifts to the families on Christmas Eve.

**January 5 Epiphany Intergenerational Christmas Gift Wrap**



**Grace Flicks—**

**Second Wednesdays at 5:30 in the Forum Room**

**(a.k.a. “The Return of Movie Night” or “Movie Night: The Sequel”)**

Join us on second Wednesday nights for drinks and snacks at 5:30, movie and pizza at 6:00 and conversation to follow. Bring a snack and a drink to share.

# Education & Formation

Grace



## WE ARE ALL A 'HOLY FAMILY' AND OTHER NEWS FROM CHILDREN AND YOUTH

It has been a great fall for the CYM program at Grace. The youth have poured their energy into multiple outreach projects which benefit the parish and local communities. First, the High School Youth of Grace (and the Tri-Youth) gathered at Hope Church to prepare meals for the Community Kitchen at Western Seminary. The following week, the Middle School group (also along with the Tri-Youth) proved that many hands (and rakes) do make light work! Together the three Middle School youth groups raked five lawns for families needing the help in just under three hours. GREAT JOB.

In other events, the youth continue to come to have insights around the question, "Who is Grace". With the help of Beth Trembley and Cheri Smith, they are working on their ideas about who Grace is from the youth perspective. Now the youth would like to hear from you. They will be filming events and conversations with parishioners over the coming weeks. It's not too late to get involved. Contact Debbie at the church office to find out more.

As we move into Advent, you will once again notice the 'star tree' in the Grace Commons. For those of you who aren't familiar with this tradition, it is an opportunity to help support our Community Housing Partnership families. Take a star, purchase the gift idea on the star, then return the unwrapped gift with the star attached to Grace by Sunday morning, December 22nd for the Christmas Intergenerational. We'll all wrap the gifts together.

In December, the Tri-Youth will gather for some holiday fellowship. On Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> the Middle School group will gather for bowling and then head back to First Presbyterian Church for dinner and Christmas games (4-6pm). Then, on December 14<sup>th</sup>, the High School group will meet at VanRaalte farm for sledding, doughnuts, and hot choloate (10am-12pm). There's nothing like some morning sledding and time with friends to start a Saturday off right!

Calling all members of our holy family! We will be gathering all of the Grace family members to represent the 'Holy Family' as well as sheep, shepherds, and angels during the homily at the early evening service for Christmas eve. If you have a special costume you would like to wear, feel free. But don't worry, we will have plenty here for you when you arrive. The service begins at 6 pm with music provided by kids and youth at 5:30 pm.

After Christmas, the Middle School and High School youth will gather for what has become our annual Epiphany Youth Retreat. We have really enjoyed having the Tri-youth participate in this event and are looking forward to seeing all our friends January 4th through January 5th at Grace. The overnight event will include a variety of games, activities, and some conversation around the topic of what it means to be playful and to have a play-filled life.

It is not to late to get involved. Please contact Debbie at the Church office or check out the Grace website for more information about CYM activities and how you can get involved. Who is Grace? Come and see!

*Submitted by Debbie Coyle, Director of Children's and Youth Ministries*

# Education & Formation / Fellowship

## CALLING ALL SINGERS!

If you like to sing (and it sounds like a lot of you do on Sunday mornings!) and are at least in the 7th grade, committing to singing in the choir is a great next step. We learn and perform a lot of beautiful music in the Christian Choral repertoire. Not to mention, this kind of ministry has a tendency to deepen one's faith and experience of the Grace community. We rehearse Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 PM. Sundays there is a 45 minute pre-service rehearsal before Eucharist. Please consider joining us this year. Feel free to ask me or choir members if you have any questions.

Steve Jenkins, Music Director

## ST. MARY'S GUILD

St. Mary's will meet on **Monday, December 9, at 7:15 PM** in the Forum Room. Under the direction of Nancy Hensley and Gerry Cawthra, members will be making small Christmas gifts for St. Martha's Guild to deliver to members of our church family who are not able to join us for Sunday services. Mark your calendar and join the fun.....no creative talent needed!! Peggy Keegin and Allene Boughton are hostesses.

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Alternate Mondays, 4:00 to 5:15 pm (a men's discussion group) — The men's study group "Beer and Bibles" meets every other Monday, for conversation, reflection, and fellowship. We are currently reading through the book of Hebrews. B-Y-O-Both. Upcoming dates are **December 2nd, 16th, 30th, January 13th and 27th.**

## THANK YOU TO NOVEMBER COFFEE HOUR HOSTS!

John & Kim Shea  
Debbie & Brian Coyle  
Marianne & Brian Manderfield



*From Laurie VanArk  
Coffee Hour Coordinator*

The sign-up sheet for January through May Coffee Hour hosts is on the clipboard. Please sign up if you can take a Sunday. Ask Laurie if you have any questions.

For current information, access the church  
calendar on our website:

[www.graceepiscopalholland.org](http://www.graceepiscopalholland.org)

Click on “About us” and then “Calendar.”

- 2 Andrew Schafer  
Molly McVay-Walters
- 4 Sophia Steele  
Barb Vincensi
- 6 Danielle Biolette  
Lindsay Goodman  
Gloria Hignite
- 7 Cesar Edgell
- 8 Katie Gamby
- 9 Sandy Hansen  
Jesse Klug  
Jorie Sligh  
Patricia Essenburg  
Libby Thomas
- 10 Chris St. John
- 11 Steve Shinabarger
- 12 Owen Foster  
Isabel Hodson
- 14 Jill Smalldon  
Karlyn March  
Andrew Macy
- 17 Grayson Visco
- 18 Alivia De Cook
- 19 Eleanor Nyhof
- 20 David Meier  
Andrew Scharlow
- 21 Signe Johnson
- 22 Derek Foster
- 23 Matthew Guyer  
Kim Ford
- 25 Carol Homan  
Kathryn Verspoor
- 26 David Hawley-Lowry  
Jersey Masselink
- 27 Rob Linn  
Alice Gillam
- 28 Holly Nyland  
Brad Richmond
- 30 Pam Nienhuis  
Will Polik
- 31 Jennifer Balisi

## *Birthdays & Anniversaries in December*



- 1 Debbie & Mihai Craioveanu
- 9 Dianne & Curtis Glupker
- 18 Lynne & Bob Frey
- 19 Monny & Bryce Cobb  
Sharon & John Barlow
- 20 Pat & Warren Parker
- 27 Mary Mims &  
Brent VanderBie
- 28 Jane & Dennis Joles
- 30 Mary & Kevin Matrosic
- 31 Ruth Fischer & Bill Paterson

- 1 Richard Swaney  
Phillip Reinink
- 2 Jennifer Wolfe
- 3 Kristie Phillips
- 4 Devin Shea  
Lourdes Manderfield  
Christoph Manderfield  
Sam Klug
- 5 Brian Coyle
- 6 Rob Sligh  
Brian Essenburg
- 7 Krista Raffenaud  
Stafford Keegin  
Emily Wright
- 8 Samantha Brown
- 10 Gladys Woodward  
Grafton Ervine
- Simon Hodson
- 11 John Barlow
- 12 David Wright  
Joan Breitmeyer
- 14 Liza Barry  
Ron Brown
- 15 Tom Kelley
- 17 Roger De Cook  
Mike Erickson  
Griselda Edgell
- 18 David Raffenaud
- 19 Lauren Ray
- 21 Christopher Packard
- 22 Sydne Klinge
- 23 Heather Klamt  
Clay Stauffer
- 24 Lucy Hopkins
- 25 Ronan Kelley
- 27 Anne Gamache  
Dennis Joles
- 31 Sally Corneliussen



## *Birthdays & Anniversaries in January*

- 4 Lynn & Blane Kamp
- 7 Debbie & Brian Coyle
- 16 Betty & Gerald Sova
- 17 Cherie & Roger De Cook
- 19 Pam & Ron Brown  
Karen & Jay Bylsma
- 26 Kris Veldheer &  
Jennifer Carlson

# Outreach

## FEEDING AMERICA

Over the past few months we've seen regular increases in the number of guests whom we serve. Thank you, Grace, for coming out in large numbers in November! We need you in December too! We are now handing out 7,500 pounds of food rather than the 5,000 we have distributed in the past. Normally growth is a good thing at a church, in this case it only shows that more and more people are hungry due to job loss, underemployment, or recent cuts to government assistance.

I know that we are all busy and that our lives seem to be on the fast track, but, we need to always be aware that there are people who need our help. We need you to help us on the second Thursday of each month to distribute the food, chat with our guests, or help in the kitchen. Can you help us out? If you have any questions about this outreach, please contact Mick Schorle, Coordinator of our Feeding America ministry or Robbie Schorle at 269 543-4400. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Robbie Schorle  
Chair of Outreach

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Every weekday and on Sundays too, the **Community Kitchen** serves lunch to about 200 hungry people out of the commons area at Western Seminary.

**Volunteers** are needed at the to help serve and clean up from **11:15am to 1:30pm** every Monday through Friday. Grace Church is committed to providing **three or four helpers each Wednesday**. Join our "regulars" who help on Wednesdays. See the sign-up sheet in the Commons. For more information contact Jim at 566-6785.

## HELP FOR THE PHILIPPINES

On the morning of November 8, 2013, Super Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the central Philippines, causing widespread damage and knocking out power and communications lines. Episcopal Relief & Development's local partner, the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, is responding. Your donation to the Philippines Fund will enable Episcopal Relief & Development to support the Episcopal Church in the Philippines as they respond to Super Typhoon Haiyan. *More information is available in the Commons along with the address for mailing gifts to Episcopal Relief & Development.*

# Stewardship & Prayer List

## Rise Up, Grace!

In the gospels, Jesus brought hurting people back to life and health with the invitation to “Rise up!” People responded by breathing again or by literally taking new steps in ways in which they hadn’t been able to before. While Grace is in no ways a hurting congregation, we are being given the opportunity to move forward with a renewed approach to planning and pledging. We are hoping to combine current staff positions and add a full-time Curate (assistant priest.) We now have over forty young families in the Young Families Network. Feeding America is growing as we serve 7500 pounds of food and over 170 families every month! And while we’ve worked payments on the Parish House into the operating budget, the House is also a resource! Stewardship Commission and Vestry have put all of these pieces together and built a three-year projected budget to the support ministry and mission of Grace. ***Our pledge goal is \$340,650.*** It's an increase, but we believe an absolutely reachable one. So, rise up, Grace! Visit the information display in the Commons and see our progress. Thank you to everyone who has submitted a pledge! Those who haven’t, please return a card as soon as possible. Thank you!

## Prayer List as of November 25, 2013

†††††

**PRAYER REQUESTED FOR:** for all victims of disasters worldwide, natural and manmade; Anne & Don, the Petit family, Gladys, Gail Geiger, Chris Briggs, the Strand family, Norm Walker, Pat Danly, Nancy Chamness, Sophie, Connie, Vern, the Hampson & Keegin families, the Butterfield family, Kim & Nouri, the Drew family, Xenia & family, Mar’Cia & family, Phil & Kathy, Carol & Woody Merriman, the Barkel family, Elaine, the McConkey family, Kathy, Laura Ferster, Grace Herta, Arkie Pierson, Amanda, Vivian Weston, for the people of Northern Africa, the Middle East and other places of war and unrest; for the unemployed or under-employed, for the women and men of the Armed Forces, especially Pierre Warner, Chuck, Warwick, Zachary, Carrie, Sam, and other loved ones of our parish family; for those in our time who face persecution for their faith and for their persecutors; Judy, Dawn & family, Alex, Emily & family, Ybarra & Torgerson families, Todd Billings & family, Sharon Henderson (mother of Sharie Phillips), Bill Ketchum, Peter Homan, Patricia Arnold, Mary Schimmel (sister of Cathy deVelder), Chuck Matrosic, Debbie (sister of Mary Matrosic), Devin, Robert McConkey, Gerald, Ray Ybarra, Jim & Jane, Ralph Suchor, Irene Bartlett, Steve, Jenny, Dale Labbe Sr., Allie Verburg & family, Michael Borst, Jodi, Sandy, Donna, Amy, Diane, Adam, Shannon, Gail Davison, Stafford, Bruce Browning (brother of Jean Adams), George Julius, Dave Masselink, Aaron Miller, Betty Sova, Gloria Stegenga, Betty & Jerry, John Keegin, Jackie Van Duren, Lisa Leland, Ben Roper, Jim Roper.

## Knowing Grace, Part I The Church Calendar

Like most Episcopal churches, Grace operates on three different calendars. Like the secular world we keep the “calendar year,” January through December, which is also our fiscal year in which we keep track of the parish budget including all varieties of income and expenditures. Similar to schools, we also have a “program year,” Labor Day to Memorial Day with summer taking on a slightly less scheduled pace.

Third, and primary is the “Liturgical Year,” the calendar followed by all churches in a “liturgical tradition.” This calendar runs from Advent I (four Sundays before Christmas) through Christ the King Sunday (which falls on one of the last two Sundays in November.) These important seasonal rhythms in our communal life are observed in our services at Grace in a variety of ways. The appointed Scripture readings and sermons follow thematic patterns; likewise, the congregational hymns and the choir anthems fit the seasons. The colors of the altar hangings and other fabrics vary by season, as do the forms used for the Prayers of the People, the Eucharistic Prayer and the music for such fixed forms as the Sanctus (“Holy, Holy, Holy”). Here are the seasons of the church:

**Advent** (Blue) starts the liturgical year and is composed of the four Sundays before Christmas. This is a time of waiting and expectation. Just as Israel waited for the birth of the Messiah, we await his second coming with hope and expectation hearing the stories of John the Baptist, the Annunciation and the Visitation of Mary and Elizabeth. Each Sunday as the service begins, we light another candle on the Advent wreath, a sign of our looking forward to the arrival of “the light of the world.”

**Christmas Eve and Day** (White) The Christmas season begins with the “Feast of the Incarnation” and lasts through January 5 (“Twelfth Night”). The expectation of Advent gives way to the celebration of Christ’s birth. We gather with Mary and Joseph and hear the angels sing out with joy, “Glory to God in the Highest!”

**Epiphany Day** (White) is on January 6<sup>th</sup> and initiates the season of **Epiphany** (Green). This season we celebrate the “manifestation” of Christ to the entire world, through the arrival of the wise men, Jesus’ baptism, the miracles Jesus offered, and the proclamation of the Kingdom of God through his very presence among us. During this season, we hear how Jesus called the disciples to “Come follow me,” and we too are (re) invited to follow. The length of the season varies depending on the date of Easter.

**Lent** (Purple) begins on **Ash Wednesday** and is a time of self-examination, spiritual discipline, reconciliation and renewal. Lent is the 40 days before Easter. We enter into a “wilderness time” with one another and Christ, simplifying the sanctuary, emphasizing our need for prayer and renewal and tending to the grace filled message of forgiveness and reconciliation that we have to offer the world. Lent culminates in the dramatic observances of Palm Sunday, the events of Holy Week and Triduum Sacrum – the “Three Days” before Easter – when we remember Jesus’ last supper with his disciples and we sit at the foot of the cross.

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**Easter** (White) is our Alleluia! It is the proclamation of our core belief that “Christ has risen from the dead!” This season is fifty days long and throughout it we hear gospel stories of Jesus’ resurrection appearances and readings from the book of Acts about how the disciples wrestled with the challenge of the Gospel (the Good News). **Ascension Day** (a Thursday, 40 days after Easter Sunday) begins a brief period of waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit to be fulfilled at Pentecost.

**Pentecost** (Red) is a feast day marking the coming of the Holy Spirit and birth of the Church. The following Sunday is **Trinity Sunday** (White), an acknowledgment of the mystery of the triune God. Then comes a long series of the **Sundays after Pentecost** (Green) which include **All Saints’ Sunday** (White) on the first Sunday in November and the feast of **Christ the King** (Green) on the last Sunday before Advent.

### **DID YOU KNOW...YOU CAN REDUCE YOUR STATE INCOME TAXES?**

For the seasoned citizens among us, did you know that you can reduce your Michigan State income taxes for 2013 by making a charitable gift from your IRA to Grace Church? As part of the tax legislation enacted earlier this year, individuals who are 70 1/2 or older can make a charitable gift of up to \$100,000 from their IRA to qualifying charities free from income tax. As you may know, contributions to charities are not typically deductible for State of Michigan income tax. A contribution made from an IRA distribution is an exception, at least for 2013, and may reduce your Michigan tax liability while supporting Grace. Additionally, a charitable IRA gift qualifies for your 2013 required minimum distribution, permitting you to lower your income and taxes this year while supporting your favorite charitable organizations.

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**Our Mission Statement:**

Grace is a dynamic community of faith grounded in Episcopal tradition, welcoming all, and serving Christ through worship, spiritual growth, and compassionate care for one another, the community and God's world.

