



NEWSLETTER

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Grace Lutheran Church

Birthdays

12/02: Harold Suelter
12/10: Kathy Holle
12/18: Pam Bowling
12/20: Betty Gordon
12/29: Ambrose
Sharp

Anniversaries

12/31: Bobby &
Taya Jones

The Christ is Coming



The title of this month's newsletter, "The Christ is Coming," describes the entirety of human history. This phrase, however, has something different in view depending on *when* in history it is said. From the moment God spoke the first Gospel in Genesis 3:15, the Christ had been coming to crush the serpent's head and to deal with the problem of sin and death. Over and over again in the Old Testament, God promises that His Christ would come. God promises that the Christ would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:10-14), that He would suffer and die to take away sin (Isaiah 52:13-53:12), that He would rise again (Psalm

16:10), and more. So, in the Old Testament, "The Christ is Coming" looks towards the moment when the Lord's Christ would come the first time.

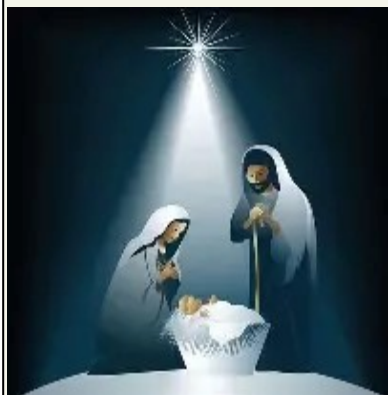
But ever since the resurrected Jesus ascended into heaven, "The Christ is Coming" means something different. Now, that phrase looks forward to that day when the Christ will come a second time. This time, on the clouds. This time, to raise the dead. This time, to bring the Christians who are resurrected and who are still alive to be with Himself in the New Creation. This time, He will also cast away those who do not belong to Him. For us today, "The Christ is Coming" means that our redemption is drawing near.

In Advent, both meanings come together. We reflect primarily during Advent and Christmas on the Christ who *has already come*. The Christ who has already been born of a virgin in Bethlehem; the Christ who has already suffered and died to take care of sin, death, and the devil; the Christ who has already risen from the dead; the Christ who has ascended to heaven. But we also rejoice because that same Christ *is coming again* to bring all His people to Himself in the New Creation. So, in Advent, we give thanks to God that the Christ both *has come* and *is coming* for us!

Here at Grace Lutheran Church, we will have multiple occasions over the next month to reflect on the Christ who has come and is coming again. The season of Advent begins Sunday, November 30, with our regular Sunday worship services. We will also meet on Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17, at 6 pm, for our Advent Mid-week services. On Sunday, December 21, we will have our Christmas program, focused on the promises of the Christ who was to be born of a virgin. Finally, we will meet at 6 pm on Christmas Eve and 10 am on Christmas Day to celebrate the Christ who had come as a baby in order to die and rise for you.

The Christ *has already come* for you – and that same Christ is coming again! Thanks be to God!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Heitshusen

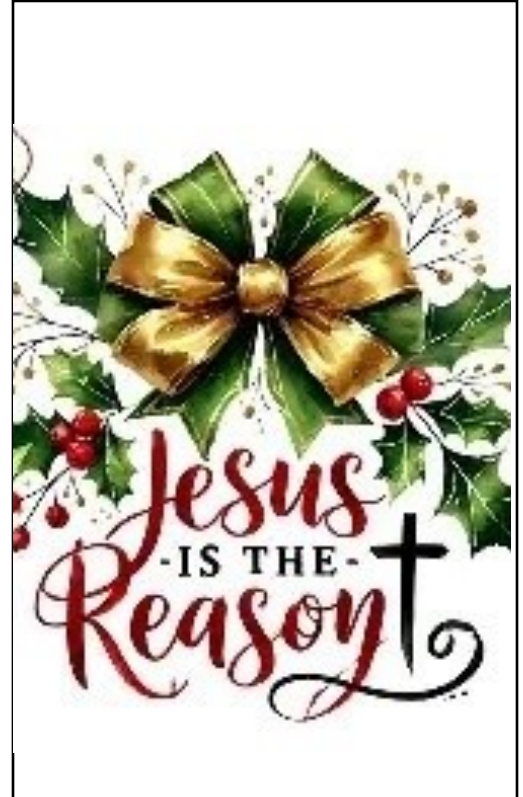


HAPPENINGS AT GRACE



Members of the Outreach Ministry Team provided a meal for the participants of **PROJECT RISE** on Thursday, October 23rd.

Pictured are (left to right) Bernie Thomas, Pam Bowling and Marsha Eagan.



GAME NIGHT



Game night was enjoyed on Saturday, November 15th.

Join in on the fun when the next game night is held in January 2026.

There is always pizza!!

