



**Advent Candlelighters
Needed!**



Would you and your family
~ or you and a friend ~
like to light the Advent
candle on a Sunday morning
during worship?

We are looking for candlelighters on
December 12, 19, and 24.

Please let the office know
what date works for you!



“Colors of Our King” is the title of the
Children’s Christmas program that will be held
on ***Sunday, December 19,*** during our 10:30
worship.

See page 3 for more information about the
Christmas program.



Join us for our annual

***Candlelight and Communion
Christmas Eve service
Friday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m.***

*Invite your friends and family to join us as we
celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior and King.*

Christmas Memories ~ Our Advent Theme

From Pastor Rachel

I will always remember going with my dad to the tree farm every year to pick out our own Christmas tree. I remember the fresh scent of pine and crisp air. I remember that Dad always said he would bring his own chain saw, but he always forgot and we ended up having to use one of the little manual saws provided. I remember most fondly the first time I was old enough to help Dad with cutting down the tree. That was the first and only time I felt privileged to do the labor. The last time at the tree farm was when I was 21 years old. It felt like the last time. After getting up from his hands and knees, he said the one thing I never thought I would hear my father saying: "I think that next year it'll be time to get an artificial one." We both knew I would be away at college and busy with other things, and I could see that he was hurting from lying on his side in the cold snow sawing away at the hard, sappy wood. It's funny how we hold these memories in both joy and sorrow. That last time at the tree farm was bittersweet, but it is still a beautiful memory that I will always carry of that special time I shared with Dad.

Christmas Full of Excitement from Rollie Salling

It was either our 1964 or 1965 Christmas that was full of excitement. I think Gloria and I had four adult cats (could have been five) that blessed us with 10 kittens that were five to seven weeks old at Christmas. You almost can imagine what comes next. Decorating the tree was next to impossible, put two or three ornaments on and pick one or two off the floor. Locking the cats in a room with toys to play with helped us get the tree decorated. We had some big red balls that we hung on the bottom branches for them to play with (still do). But, the bows on the packages were the best toys for the kittens and trying to climb the tree. The packages and the tree were in constant motion day and night. They didn't tip the tree over but came close several times, and we had to redecorate every day. Come Christmas Eve when we always opened our presents, there were no bows, or name tags, let alone wrapping paper left on the packages; and there were all kinds

of help opening our presents. To this day when I put up the tree I think of that Christmas and glad I don't have that help. Well, maybe a little would be ok.

One Unforgettable Christmas from Kathy Rosendahl

It was two days before Christmas, December 1983. Four Rosendahl's (David entered the story in 1988) were on our way to my parents' farm near Canby, Minnesota. The day started out sunny and cold on our 270-mile journey. About half-way there we noticed a dramatic change! The wintry landscape now had very deep snow cover. My hero, Doug, continued driving slowly, carefully, and bravely. The last five miles of gravel roads showed no tire tracks! I was glad the girls were quiet during most of Doug's stressful drive. We finally reached the farm driveway only to realize the snow was much too deep to enter with the car. We would walk. Doug snuggled three-month old Emily next to him inside his warm jacket while I carried four-year old Jennifer through the deep snow down the driveway. Mom and Dad joyfully greeted us at the door. As we entered the house, we could smell freshly baked bread and feel the welcomed warmth of hugs and the wood-burning stove. This unforgettable Christmas had a wonderful gift: family being safely together to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Christmas Memories from Leona Thiele

I remember that my dad always waited until the last day to buy a tree. I guess he assumed they would be less expensive at that point. But we always had a nice tree; and, after we got it, my mom would make cut-out cookies, and we would decorate the tree with them.

from Pam Lica

We would always have Christmas Eve with my dad's family and attend the Christmas Eve candlelight service at Grace. Then Christmas morning would be with just the six of us, and Christmas dinner was with my mom's family. It was like having three Christmases in two days, but the best part was that we got to be with all of the family.

News from Session

Session held its regular meeting in person on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, and approved the following items:

- * To accept the budget report with a deficit of \$3,800 and hoping for a "Leap of Faith" to help cover this.
- * To transfer \$400 from the Special Mission fund to the Mission Committee budget for going to Winona Volunteer Services.
- * To pay the \$300 down payment for the confirmation retreat out of the Youth Mission Fund.
- * To serve communion on the following dates: November 21, 2021 (Christ the King Sunday); November 28, 2021 (first Sunday in Advent); December 24, 2021 (Christmas Eve); and January 9, 2022 (baptism of Our Lord Sunday).
- * To collect the Christmas Joy Offering on December 19, 2021.
- * To have a worship service just on Christmas Eve. There will be no food with it this year due to the COVID situation.
- * To have the Christmas Eve/End-of-year giving to be designated as follows: \$300 to each of the following: Winona Immigration Network (WIN); Capable Canines of Wisconsin; and Salvation Army/Heat Share. The monies will come from the Special Mission Fund. We will challenge the congregation to help us raise each of those amounts to \$500.

Pam Lica, Clerk



Communion will be served at least once a month for special Sunday's or on the first Sunday of the month. The next communion services will be:

December 24 (Christmas Eve)
January 9 (Baptism of the Lord)

February 6
February 27 (Transfiguration)
March 6

April 10 (Palm Sunday)
April 14 (Maundy Thursday)
April 17 (Easter)

From Missions

The Mission Committee is excited to share about the Christmas Joy offering and the three Gifts from Grace at Christmas with our Christmas Eve offering opportunities.

Christmas Joy ~ by giving to the Christmas Joy offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their times of need. This offering also helps in developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges and by equipping communities of color. **This offering will be received on Sunday, December 19.**

The Mission Committee has committed to send \$300.00 from our Special Mission Fund to three worthy local charities. Our Christmas Eve offering challenge to the congregation is to bring the total to \$500.00 each. Our Christmas Eve offerings will go to:

Heat Share - this Salvation Army run program, working with local utility companies, keeps homes warm in these very cold months. Giving to this cause will help all that request help from the program.

W.I.N. ~ Winona Immigration Network - This organization is made up of some Lutheran churches in the area, and they have banded together to support a refugee. They expect a gentleman from Colombia to arrive as early as December 14. Hopefully, his family will be able to join him in the future. The more we can help, the sooner they will be able to join him here in Winona and out of harms way.

Capable Canines - This one you have heard of before! The Mission Committee would like to give more to help people who need a service dog. Service animals provide help to people with disabilities so that they can live their daily lives. The cost of a service animal with training is anywhere between \$8,000 and \$28,000 depending on the skills that are needed.

Sunday School News



Last year we were unable to meet in person and have the Christmas program, so we give thanks for the opportunity to again celebrate Christmas with the annual Children's Christmas Program! Children and youth of all ages will participate.

Rehearsal Times and Dates:

Sunday, December 12 - during Sunday School (just speaking parts.)

Saturday, December 18 - 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. (all children and youth.)

Sunday, December 19 - Christmas program!

Following the program **ALL** are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for a Sloppy Joe lunch provided by the Fellowship Committee. Enjoy some time together over a great meal!

There will be **NO** Sunday School on **Sunday, December 26 or January 2** because of the two holidays.

Introducing to our 2021 Confirmands



Meet
Ava Roessler

Ava is the daughter of Laura and Todd Roessler. She has two brothers, Will and Dash. .

She is 15 years old and in the 10th

grade at Galesville/Etrick/Trempealeau school.

Ava is a pole vaulter, is on the swim team and enjoys curling.

Ava hopes to learn how to be a part of the church community during Confirmation this year. Her toothbrush is pink!

We are SO excited! This year our church filled **22 boxes for Operation Christmas Child!** During the Children's Time on November 14, Pastor Rachel had the children and a few adults hold up the boxes. That made a good visual to show the love, energy and imagination in each box. We can also imagine the excitement, hope, and love of Jesus children throughout the world will have as they open their boxes!

Thank you for your participation in this special children's mission. Also, another **huge thank you** to the anonymous person who generously paid the shipping costs on all 22 boxes!

December

**MEMORY
VERSE**

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."

Luke 1:30-31

**From the
Grace Church
Staff**

**Pastor Rachel,
Cheri, Ron
and our organ subs,
Dan, Eric & Larry**

*Merry
Christmas*

Happy Birthday!

Jacob Anderson	December 1
Zachary Anderson	December 1
Steve Kohner	December 3
Kjersti Anderson	December 9
Rena Dornfeld	December 10
John Johanson	December 12
Abby Johanson	December 12
Jodi McGill	December 19
Walt Gilbertson	December 20
Gloria Rockwell	December 22



Happy Anniversary!

Jack & Cheri Looman	December 28
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YOUR YEAR-END

GIVING

MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Please remember that your year-end gifts must be received in the church office by December 31 in order to receive credit toward your 2021 giving.

At the end of November our pledged income was approximately \$3,000 in the negative.

***Also, please remember to turn
in your 2022 pledge
if you have not already done so!***

***January newsletter deadline is
DECEMBER 12.***

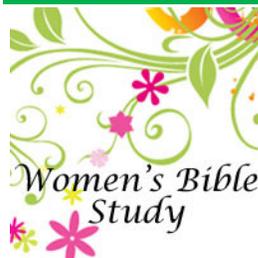
Submit your articles to Lori by Noon!
Contact her at lorigpcnewsletter@charter.net.



This is a friendly reminder that if you are responsible for your committee's annual report, it is due in the office by Friday, January 28.

**A Very Special
Thank You
to everyone
who helped
with clean up
after the Holiday Fair!**

**It was a huge blessing
to be finished so quickly!!**



**Women's Bible
Study**

**An Ecumenical group of ladies
meets each Monday morning
from 9:00 until 11:00 for Bible
study. This group is open to any
women who would like to join
them.**

Because we are
unconditionally loved by
God, we are called to do the
same in thought, word, and
deed with our family,
community, and world.

Mission

Thank God!

GRACE
HAPPENS
+

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Office Hours

9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Tuesday - Thursday

8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Friday

Sunday Morning

Sunday School

9:00 am

Sunday Worship

10:30 am

Fellowship Time

11:30 am

Minister

Rev. Rachel Rosendahl

Office Administrator

Cheri Looman

Accompanist

Guest Accompanists

Treasurer

Jennifer MacAskill

Church School Director

Kathy Rosendahl

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Lori Fort-Hoerig

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Session Elders

Kjersti Anderson

Ron Dietrich

Rena Dornfeld

Nancy Dornfeld

Pam Lica

Jennifer MacAskill

Chris Schantzen

Board of Deacons

2021: Ann Lubinski, Kathy Rosendahl

2022: Candi Kohner, David Rosendahl

2023: O. J. Jacobson, Jeanette Karjala