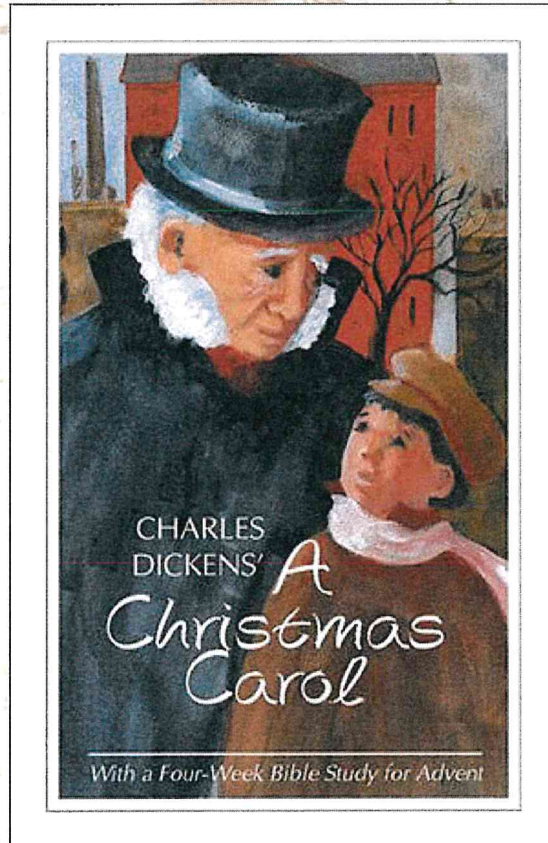


December 2020/January 2021

HERALD OF GRACE

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT IS NOVEMBER 29TH!



**All members of Grace are encouraged to participate in our Advent
2020 theme:**

“GOD BLESS US, EVERYONE!”

(Information inside.)

Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Wayne J. Miller, Pastor

Debbie Milling, Office Assistant

Connie Rowe, Organist

1356 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

(251) 433-2749

grace@gracelutheranmobile.com

FROM YOUR PASTOR

A “2020” Kind of Christmas

After all the effort in trying to get back to “normal” before the end of the year, it appears that things will not be going back to normal yet. We are discussing the dangers of gathering, the unsanitary conditions of sharing meals together, the cancellations of parades, Christmas parties, and concerts, and the final rising problem of the season, the debates within our families of what should be done and what shouldn't be done causing more division. As I always say, a pandemic sometimes intensifies problems that were already there. And on top of that, from my observation, many families strangely have gone through more trials this year than any other year; economic struggles, health, relationships and deaths. Whatever the reason, it's all set up for another tag line: “Christmas just won't be the same this year.” Is 2020 going to be known as a “disappointing Christmas?”

Somehow, the glow of Christmas lights, the tune of Christmas carols, the Christmas specials on TV or our very own family traditions will not be able fix the year 2020. “Sleep in heavenly peace” is a phrase of a song that we may sing but that we do not get to live. It is so easy for it to be “a disappointing Christmas.”

And yet, the beauty of Christmas is that Christ our Savior's coming does not depend on everything going as we hoped it would. Actually, He came from heaven because everything was going wrong here on earth. Years like 2020 were the reason for the first Christmas. He came because we were disappointed, disenfranchised, disfigured, dismembered and disheveled in our worry, our despair and our old sin. And yet, Christ still comes, regardless of our disarray, to make an appointment with us in His house where we may receive and share His gifts by the power and grace of His Holy Spirit. Christmas is not about getting things right or “normal”; it is about God who came to make things right for us. Christmas is not about making ourselves happy; it is about God who came in the flesh to bring us joy. Christmas is not about having things our way; it is about God in Christ Jesus being the Way, the Truth and the Life for us so that we are brought into His way that leads to true hope and peace.

Disappointed in these upcoming Twelve Days of Christmas? Perhaps because you have “dissed your appointment”—Your Heavenly Appointment! Perhaps it is the right time that you “fall on your knees and hear the angels' voices” as God Himself comes to you in His Holy Word, confessing your sin and receiving absolution, gathering with the Saints around the Table of the Lord and ponder the gift that you eat and drink, praying that our Lord would stir you to a greater appreciation for His death and resurrection for your salvation as you wait for His return. Maybe it is finally time to spend more time with God who became flesh and dwelt among us as truly wise people continue to seek Him. Maybe your disappointment is God's way of reshaping our priorities in life and showing you that Christmas is not about your feelings and expectations as much as it is about God's love for you that is never-changing. His return in the near future, the rest of 2020 and beyond, reorders our present day priorities while helping us learn from our past in a healthy, constructive, Christ-forgiven way and to better look forward to a future that God has prepared for His people.

God so loved the world that He graciously sent His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him would not perish but would have everlasting life...and that perfect, joyful, peaceful life is put inside you EVERY Christmas.

Blessed Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Season to us all!

Pastor Wayne J. Miller

From Your Congregational President

Dear Members,

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!

As we near the end of 2020, these are comforting words which remind us of who is actually in charge. We know that no matter what the adversity is that we face, the Savior reigns!

Grace is blessed to be open, serving God's people and announcing *Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!*, through our various ministries.

To help improve the delivery of God's Word within our sanctuary and online we have installed a new sound system this week. This will not only enhance the service for all, it will offer a new way of listening for those with hearing impairments. We will have four headphones available for those who may benefit from a more concentrated sound. Also, those who have hearing aids can connect to Bluetooth and we will be able to stream to your hearing aids.

I announced earlier this month the plans for temperature checks, masks and social distancing. Those plans are as follows:

- 1) *Temperature Checks* - Effective immediately we are suspending temperature checks at the door prior to services. The exception to this policy change will be that Pastor Miller and anyone working the service (i.e. Elders, Ushers, etc.) will continue to be required to have temperature checks.
- 2) *Masks* - Per Gov. Ivey's mask order, we will continue to require masks be worn through December 11, 2020 at which time the Governor may extend or rescind the order. As always, we will follow our government official's guidance as good Christians and good Citizens. In the event Gov. Ivey was to rescind the mask order on or before December 11, 2020 we would then remove the mask requirement but continue to highly recommend the wearing of masks during services for the protection of all members. Again, the exception to that change would be Pastor Miller and anyone working the service.
- 3) *Social Distancing* – While Gov. Ivey's order has modified the occupancy levels for various commercial businesses the Council has decided that Grace will maintain the current service attendance levels and physical separation plan that we currently have in place. While it is good to see our fellow members and friends at church and we wish to socialize with them, we cannot have a grouping of people at the back of the church or in the aisles prior to services as this defeats social distancing. We therefore want to remind everyone that once you enter the sanctuary you should proceed to your pew. If you wish to speak to one another, please wait until after you have exited the sanctuary following the service.

We look forward to seeing you at our Advent and Christmas Eve services. On behalf of Pastor Miller and the Church Council I want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas as you enjoy time with family and friends.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!

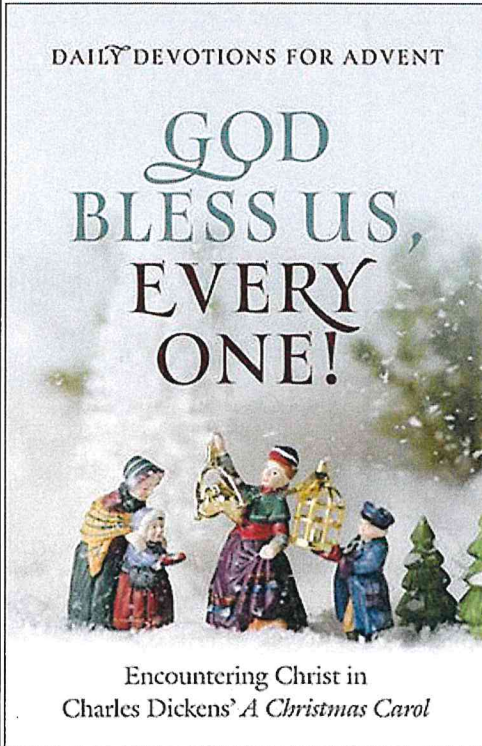
Grady Luttmann, President

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT IS NOVEMBER 29TH!

All members of Grace are encouraged to participate in our Advent 2020 theme:

“GOD BLESS US, EVERYONE!”

CHARLES DICKENS’ A CHRISTMAS CAROL

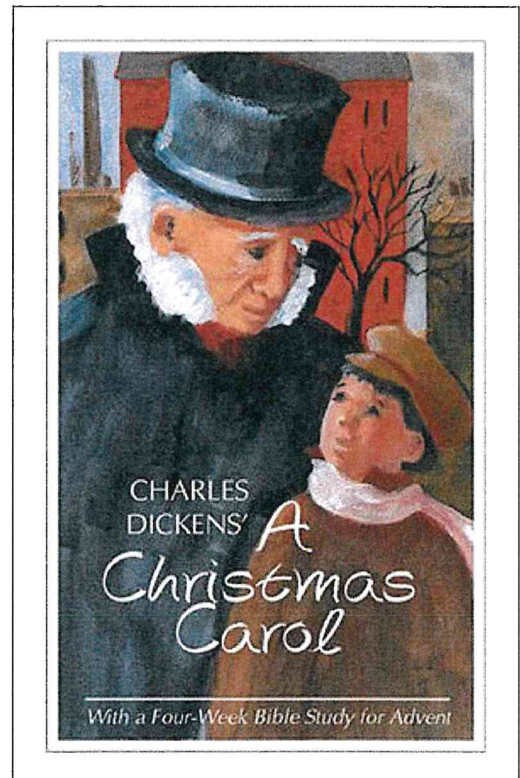


Grace is gifting you the full Dickens’ novel accompanied with a 4-week bible study and daily devotions for everyday leading us to Christmas.

A wonderful book study especially for a community upon which many are comfortable “staying home” for the holidays this year. The book is broken up into 4 “staves” and will be used for each week in Advent. Pastor Miller will have an online bible study each week connecting Christ and Christian principles to the famous story and characters. Midweek Advent services will reflect on this story too!

The classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge is a cherished symbol of Christmas and a wonderful story of redemption and hope - *perfect for a study in Advent*. Contained in one spiral-bound volume are both the full original text of Dickens’ A Christmas Carol as well as a four-part bible study that coincides with the four weeks of Advent. Also, daily devotionals will be used to prepare us and give us strength for Christ’s coming. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. What He does in our lives today is real.

Join us in this special seasonal study!





We want you to celebrate Christmas at Grace this year, but reservations are required!

This year in order to be more responsible in our social distancing, we are asking that you and your families sign up for one of our Christmas Eve Services. Reservations are filling up quickly!

You can sign up in the back of the church or by calling or emailing the church office or Pastor Miller.

Office 251-433-2749

Pastor's Cell 251-230-1886

Email: grace@gracelutheranmobile.com

Christmas Eve Services:

4:00 PM

6:00 PM

10:00PM

Advent Midweek Services at Grace Lutheran Church

Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm with a hymn/carol sing at 6:45

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol: What Happens When Jesus Comes?

No story illustrates transformation better than Dickens' classic Christmas story of Ebenezer Scrooge - a miserable miser who shortchanges those who work for him, is ruthless to those who owe him money, is coldly indifferent to the pleas of widows and orphans, and has not one charitable bone in his curmudgeonly old body. Dickens says this of Scrooge: Oh, but he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner! As we know, all that is about to change one Christmas Eve, as Scrooge is visited by three ghosts - the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future, and he is led on an incredible journey of redemption and transformation. And we get to join him on his journey because we will have the opportunity to be visited by the three ghosts here at Grace! In case you didn't know it, this tale was based on the five major scripture passages of Advent, to help Christians prepare for the coming of Christ, when their lives were in need of repentance and redemption.

Here's our schedule:

Every service begins with a Christmas Carol/Hymn Sing at 6:45 PM.
You get to pick the Advent, Christmas or Epiphany hymns out of our hymnal!

Wednesday, December 2: 7 PM - Haunted by the Past? How the Coming of Jesus Redeems your Past

Wednesday, December 9: 7 PM - Haunted by the Present? How the Coming of Jesus Transforms your Present

Wednesday, December 16: 7 PM - Haunted by the Future? How the Coming of Jesus Gives you Hope for the Future

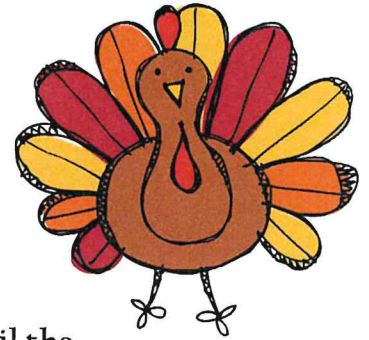
The Lord's Supper will be served at these services.

So, take this brief midweek time either in-person or online to reflect and pray about what this season is about for you.

And as we enter this holy season, let us join Tiny Tim in saying,
"God bless us, everyone!"

Thanksgiving Grocery Store Gift Card Drive

This year we are asking for grocery store gift card donations, instead of food donations, in order to reduce the amount of handling of goods. These will 100% support the meals served during the holidays at the Waterfront Rescue Mission. Any grocery store, including Sam's or Costco, is acceptable. This will allow them to buy the items that they need and help prevent any Covid-19 contamination.



Gift Card Collections can be placed in our offering plates from now until the Thanksgiving Eve Service. Thank you!

EDUCATION NEWS



gracelutheranmobile.com

Everyone is invited to our children's Sunday school program entirely online.

Each week will focus on the Sunday's Gospel Lesson with a message from Pastor, Music Video and Craft. The newest lesson will be posted at 6:00 AM each Sunday.



Camp Dixie 2021

Chicken Dinner Schedule

Camp Dixie Chicken Dinners are served from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm



Dates for 2021!

January 10, 2021

February 07, 2021

March 14, 2021

April 11, 2021

June 13, 2021

September 12, 2021

October 10, 2021

November 14, 2021

**Bring Your Family And Friends And Enjoy Fellowship,
And Fun, While Having Some FANTASTIC Fried Chicken!**

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For More Information, Please

Call (251) 987-1201 Or Visit Our Website

www.campdixieministries.org

Located At: 29711 Josephine Dr. Elberta, AL 36530

All Proceeds Benefit Camp Dixie Lutheran Outdoor Ministry.

Camp Dixie is Supported By: Grace Lutheran, Mobile, AL

St. Mark's Lutheran, Elberta, AL St. Paul's Lutheran, Foley, AL

Immanuel Lutheran, and Redeemer, Lutheran, Pensacola, FL



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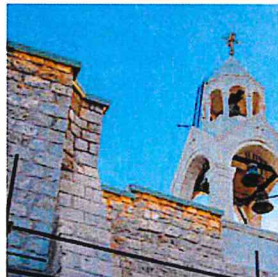
Join Pastor Wayne Miller with Pastor Keith & Diana Ringers

Holy Land Tour

May 30 - June 8, 2022



Hosts
Pastor
Wayne & Ashley
Miller



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MESSAGE FROM YOUR HOST

Pastor Wayne Miller



God's plan for our salvation and the history of His people are closely tied to the land of Israel. So, consider for a moment how walking in the footsteps of Jesus would bring the Biblical accounts to life. Imagine kneeling where the shepherds stood at Bethlehem's manger, seeing the places where Jesus grew up and worked, standing in the Jordan River where He was baptized, sailing across the Sea of Galilee where Jesus did most of his ministry, praying in Gethsemane, following along the Way-of-the-Cross, weeping at Golgotha, or singing hymns of praise at the empty tomb. Walking in the footsteps of Jesus and seeing the land where He lived will change your life forever, and reading the Scriptures will never be the same again.

We are inviting you to take this pilgrimage with us, to experience for yourself the sights, the sounds, and the smells of this historic and beautiful living land. Your understanding of the Bible will be challenged, inspired, and strengthened as the Biblical places we only imagined suddenly come to life. A trip to the Holy Land is truly a journey of epic proportions. There is no other place like it in the whole world. Please consider joining us.

- Rev. Wayne Miller & Rev. Keith & Diana Ringers



ITINERARY

May 30 – Depart USA

Your spiritual pilgrimage begins as you depart the USA on an overnight flight.

May 31 – Arrive in the Holy Land

You will be welcomed to the Holy Land by our airport representative and transferred to your hotel on the coast.

June 1 – Caesarea Maritima, Megiddo, Sepphoris, Mount Arbel

Begin the day at Caesarea Maritima, the Roman capital of Judea with its theater and Roman Aqueduct, where Cornelius became the first Gentile convert to the new covenant (Acts 10) and Paul was imprisoned before taken to Rome for trial. Travel the ancient caravan route to Tel Megiddo where over 20 cities lie superimposed upon each other and the site of many ancient battles. Visit Sepphoris, the capital of Galilee in Jesus' youth, where Jesus and Joseph probably earned their living as construction workers. End the day's travels on Mount Arbel with its stunning panoramic view of the Plain of Gennesaret and the Sea of Galilee where most of Jesus' ministry took place, before going to our lodging in a kibbutz on the Sea of Galilee.

June 2 – Hazor, Tel Dan, Caesarea Philippi, Golan Heights

Explore Hazor, one of the oldest archaeological sites in Israel. The 3000 year old city was the inspiration for *The Source*, James Michener's epic historical novel about Israel. Here Joshua fought against Jabin (Joshua 11:1-11). At Tel Dan, see the mud brick arch constructed in Canaanite times and where the "House of David" inscription from the First Temple Period was found. Visit Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus traveled with his disciples and where nearby Peter made his great confession: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" (Matthew 16:16) After lunch in the vicinity of Mount Hermon, return through the strategic tableland known as the Golan Heights.

June 3 – Valley of the Wind and Doves, Magdala, Mount of Beatitudes, Eremos Topos, Capernaum, Tabgha, Chorazim, the Ancient Boat, Sea of Galilee Boat Ride

Begin your day walking a portion of the Valley of the Wind and Doves. Continue with a visit to the excavations of Magdala, home of a first century synagogue and Mary Magdalene. Visit the Mount of Beatitudes, site of the Sermon on the Mount. Walk down the hill to Eremos Topos, identified by a 3rd Century pilgrim as "the lonely place" where Jesus retired to pray. Explore Capernaum, Jesus' headquarters in Galilee; Tabgha, site of the feeding of the 5000; and Chorazim, the city Jesus cursed because they had seen his mighty acts, yet remained unrepentant. At Nof Ginosar, see the 1st century fishing boat found in the Sea of Galilee's mud, a rare example of the kind of boat in which Jesus would have sailed those waters. End the day with a sunset boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and a worship service on board.

June 4 – Nazareth, Jacob's Well, Baptismal Site, Mount Scopus

You'll visit Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus (Matthew 2:23) and the Mount of Precipice where Luke describes how Jesus was rejected by those in his hometown synagogue. Filled with anger they "led him to the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong." (Luke 4:29) See Sychar, home of Jacob's Well, where Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman (John 4). Remember your baptism as you worship at the Baptismal Site on the River Jordan and contemplate the Baptism of Jesus. You'll approach Jerusalem from Mount Scopus with its panoramic view of the Holy City as you make your way to your hotel.

June 5 – Sunday Worship in Bethlehem, Church of the Nativity, Shepherds’ Field

Today we cross the border into Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus. Worship in the Christmas Lutheran Church to get a sense of the Christian community of the Holy Land. In the afternoon, visit the Church of the Nativity, the oldest continuously functioning church in the world. See the cave where tradition holds Jesus was born. Look out on the Shepherds’ Field, where angels announced his birth, as we close our day with worship.

June 6 – Mount of Olives, Palm Sunday Walk, Garden of Gethsemane, Temple Mount, Southern Wall Excavations, Teaching Steps, Western Wall, Upper Room, Caiaphas’ Palace

Stand atop the Mount of Olives as Jesus did and enjoy a remarkable view of the “Golden City” of Jerusalem. Walk the route of Jesus’ Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday. Pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. Visit the Temple Mount, site of Solomon’s Temple, and the Southern Wall Excavations, with its Teaching Steps. Visit the traditional site of the Last Supper on Mount Zion, and the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, the site of the High Priest’s Palace, where Jesus stood before the Sanhedrin and was imprisoned overnight before the crucifixion, and where Peter denied that he knew Jesus.

June 7 – Pool of Bethesda, Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Garden Tomb, Depart for Home

Begin the day at the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus performed a Sabbath miracle of healing. Walk the Via Dolorosa, the “Way of the Cross,” and stand in reverence at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, site of the crucifixion and tomb of Jesus. Our tour ends with a service of Holy Communion at the Garden Tomb. This evening, you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight to the USA.

June 8 – Return Home

Register Early & Save

\$150 Register by June 30, 2021	\$125 Register by July 30, 2021	\$100 Register by August 30, 2021
\$75 Register by September 30, 2021	\$50 Register by October 30, 2021	\$25 Register by November 30, 2021

**Starting at
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IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS
PHILIPPIANS 3:8-9

October 20, 2020

Grace Lutheran Church
1356 Government Blvd
Mobile, AL 36604

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you for your very generous check of \$412.00 given to assist the Southern District in our disaster relief efforts.

The Southern District is no stranger to disaster recovery. So we know the value of quickly getting resources to the local area in recovery. Please know that 100% of your gift will be used for those affected.

As we continue to hear the news reports and see photos of such widespread destruction, we know that their road to recovery will be quite long. The impact on the families in these areas continues to be huge. It is gifts such as yours that will continue to support the ongoing recovery efforts.

We are working hand in hand with our disaster team and are making available any resources and experience we have in the recovery period. Many lives are being touched with the mercy of Jesus. Our hope is that His kingdom will be extended as they work through the healing process.

Your Servant in Christ's Mission,


Rev. Eric C. Johnson
Southern District
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

*Sandy at Grace,
Thank you so much for your
kind gift. Your gift will help
us help many impacted by the
storms that have plagued us this
season.*

"What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith." (Philippians 3:8-9)

Southern District of the LCMS

100 Mission Drive – Slidell, LA – 70460 • Phone: (504) 282-2632 • www.southernlcms.org • Fax: (985) 871-9696



December Birthdays

- 1- Leisa Myles
- 2- Cary March, Sr.
- 4- Julie Harvey
- 5- Stuart Wilson
- 7- Gisela Nobles
 - Jacob Beck
 - Marilyn Kearney
 - Philip Erdman
- 11- Kenneth Weiss, Sr.
- 12 – Eli Johnson
- 15- Heidi Butler

- Trey Tomas
- 18- Raegan Adlington
 - David Arnett
- 19- Daniel Harvey
- 21 - Michelle March
 - Stacey Griffin
- 24- Steven Middleton
- 27 - Charlotte Erdman
- 29- Sabrina Abbott

December Wedding Anniversaries

- 3 – Randy and Jan Tanner
- 28- Chris and Jen Mangino

January Birthday

- 2- Thomas Griffin
- 4- Landyn West
- 5- Chris Griffin Jr.
 - Sonny Hammac
 - Teresa Collins-Maples
- 6- Mark Bryant
- 8- Cathy Weiss
- 9- Sylvia Gray
 - Beth Pollard

- 11- Andrea Bryant
- 12- Debbie Milling
 - Sandra Mitchell
- 15- Vaughn Gordon
- 16- Ronald Boston
- 17- Susan Hankins
 - Olivia Johnson
- 29- Joel Mueller
 - Randy Tanner
- 31- David Hoffman Jr.



January Wedding Anniversaries

- 5- Chris and Connie Rowe



*May you and your family have a Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year with
God's continued guidance and blessing as
we ring in a new year.
God be with us in 2021!*

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			Advent 6:45/7:00 pm			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:00 & 10:00 Worship Holy Communion Confirmation Class			Advent 6:45/7:00 pm			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:00 & 10:00 Worship Holy Communion Confirmation Class			Advent 6:45/7:00 pm			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:00 & 10:00 Worship Holy Communion Confirmation Class				<i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:00 6:00 10:00	<i>Merry Christmas!</i>	
27	28	29	30	31		
8:00 & 10:00 Worship Holy Communion				<i>New Year's Eve</i>		