

December 2021/January 2022

# HERALD OF GRACE

All our Families and Friends are invited to Grace's  
**Christmas Eve Service**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 & 7:00**



*\* Midweek Advent Services/Bible Study detail inside.*

*\*Keep watch for our wandering nativity beginning Sunday, Nov. 28!*

**Grace Lutheran Church**

*Rev. Wayne J. Miller, Pastor*

*Connie Rowe, Organist*

*1356 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604*

*(251) 433-2749*

*grace@gracelutheranmobile.com*



## ***“Wait Upon the Lord”*** Advent 2021

The season of Advent is characterized by waiting—waiting upon the Lord for his presence to be revealed to us on Christmas. In this worship series for Advent, we look back in Scripture at those who waited upon the Lord for his promises to come to pass through the Christ Child. We also look forward, contemplating how we should wait upon the Lord in this present moment of our lives, as God continues to make himself known to us.

**Week 1 • Nov 28 and Dec 1 Wait Upon the Lord with Faith** (Galatians 3:8): Abraham and Sarah waited with faith for the birth of their son, Isaac, and we wait with faith for the birth of God’s Son, Jesus, trusting that he will come at Christmas to save all people.

**Week 2 • Dec 5 and Dec 8 Wait Upon the Lord with Hope** (Psalm 130:5): The prophet Isaiah declared the coming of the Lord, which gave the people of Israel hope for the future. We wait with hope for the future because we know what the future holds—a Savior.

**Week 3 • Dec 12 and Dec 15 Wait Upon the Lord with Rejoicing** (Isaiah 25:9): Elizabeth rejoiced as she waited for the coming of her son, John the Baptist. And Mary rejoiced as she waited for the birth of her son, Jesus. In the same manner we rejoice as we wait for the coming of the Son of God.

**Week 4 • Dec 19 and Dec 22 Wait Upon the Lord with Gratitude** (Psalm 9:1): Zechariah’s waiting days for John the Baptist’s birth were filled with great gratitude for the Lord’s promise about to be fulfilled. In these remaining waiting days before our Savior’s birth, we are ever more grateful for the arrival of the Promised One.

**Midweek Advent Service/Bible Study based on each week’s story on Wednesdays, Dec 1, 8, 15, 22 @ 6:00 PM (In-person and live online)**

**[gracelutheranmobile.com](http://gracelutheranmobile.com)**

**Christmas Eve Services: Friday, December 24th @ 5:00 & 7:00**

## FROM YOUR PASTOR

Dear People in waiting,

December 1, 2021

I love Advent. Advent is my favorite season of the church year. The name Advent shares the Latin root “adventus” meaning “a coming, an approach, or an arrival.” For us American Lutherans, Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas Day – not just the first 24 days of December. In a way, Advent wreaths are more accurate timekeepers than Advent calendars, although I am a fan of both, especially when one comes with little chocolates even though the chocolate really isn’t that great, it’s the principle. The wine or beer calendars from Costco might do more for some though cheating ahead on those could be too dangerous!

Advent is the season of “already/not yet”: Christ has already come/Christ has not yet returned. I am a believer/God help my unbelief (see Mark 9). I am a Christian/ I am still a sinner. I am weak/ He is strong. Advent carries the weight of the end times balanced with the HOPE of the Kingdom of God; the end times balanced with the PEACE of the Kingdom of God; the end times balanced with the JOY of the Kingdom of God; the end times balanced with the LOVE of the Kingdom of God. Consequently, it is a season of repentance and spiritual reflection and silence; a time of thinking through what the Church is, and what it will become. Who we are, and who we are to become. In all and through all, we are people who WAIT.

Advent gets really lost this time of year in the seasonal chaos – the ridiculously early arrival of Christmas stuff in all the stores before Halloween, and the commercialism of toys and stuff and Santa Claus (God love him), the stress for some with money and food and having to visit family and friends or else. That being said, I actually like the pre-Christmas insanity TOO! Maybe not the commercialism, but the get-togethers and the singing and the music and the Christmas movies and the celebrating and the gift-giving (and the cookies) are a heart-warming oasis of joy in a dark season. If you know me well, I am both an extrovert and an introvert. Because I’m an extrovert I like the Christmas culture but as an introvert I like Advent too. So how do you keep Advent sacred (something set apart) AND at the same time how do you not live like a pre-Christmas scrooge yelling BAH CHRISTMAS and NO TREE UP UNTIL DECEMBER!?

Well, here’s what we do: in Christian freedom we can do anything we want with Christmas any time of the year but try to establish Advent territory in your life. Get an Advent wreath or an Advent Calendar at home. Go to Church including our Midweek Advent services on Wednesday nights. Have a daily devotion, perhaps using the one you will be gifted from Grace, which is available in the back of the church for you. Find time every day to read the brief 2-minute devotion and to pray. That’s your Advent territory. Treasure your Advent territory. A slow-cooked roast is better than an instant microwaved one. Waiting pays off.

In the world’s chaos and darkness, you are given “God” territory. Treasure your God territory because as time moves faster and faster and we arrive closer and closer, we run out of time but hopefully in the end we “fall on our knees” and we “hear the angels’ voices” and are awakened by the Spirit to seek that which is given for us- Christ Jesus our Lord. Cherish the seasons because

soon the waiting will be over. Maybe tomorrow, maybe next year, 100 years or 2000 more years. Who knows? Regardless, the gifts Christ purchased for us through His death on the cross for our sin and His rising from the dead are delivered to us in Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, Holy Communion, and His Holy Word making unholy people holy. We receive it all by His grace through faith. Christ strengthens with the hope-fueled, peace-fueled, joy-fueled, and love-fueled light that keeps the Advent candles lit well beyond a four-week season before Christmas. Keep your candles lit while we work to watch and watch to work. For us, the candles stay lit because the promise is true: the Light of Christ is coming to save us soon.

As we wait, keep the Advent candles lit and keep both the “Christ” and the “mass” in Christmas.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Peace and hope in Christ,

*Pastor Wayne J. Miller*

Pastor Wayne J. Miller



Ashley and I would like to thank everyone for their loving support, prayers, notes and gifts in the celebration of the birth of our baby girl, Addison Michelle Miller, born on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Addie is certainly blessed to be a part of Grace and we look forward to celebrating her baptism this month.

We are truly grateful to our Lord!

## ADVENT 2021



A 4-SESSION **BIBLE STUDY**  
FOR ADVENT 

Everyone is invited to Midweek Advent Services this year on Wednesdays at 6:00. In lieu of traditional Advent services, we will have a brief liturgy, hymn/carol sing along, and a bible study based off the Sunday service themes, "Wait Upon the Lord."

While we urge in-person involvement, the service/bible study will be streamed live from Grace at the same time and recorded if you cannot find the time on Wednesday evenings.

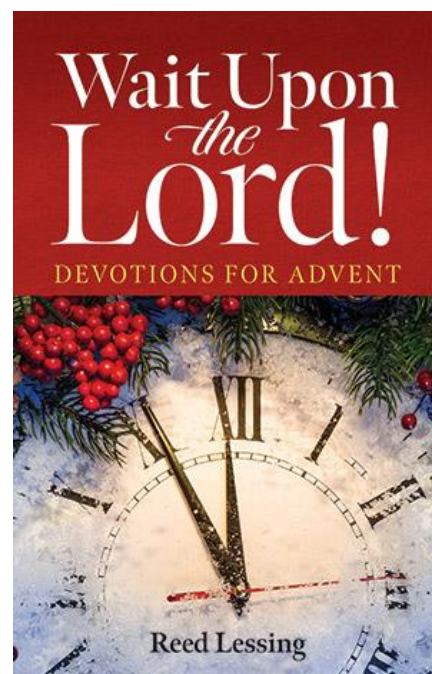
Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

December 1, 8, 15, 22

A Blessed Advent Season to You!

*"See next page for live stream directions..."*


Daily Advent Devotions, "Wait Upon the Lord!" are now available to help us meditate on the season.





## How to find the Grace Live Stream for Wednesday Advent Service/Bible Study:

Go directly to the Grace website live stream page by typing in this address: <https://gracelutheranmobile.com/sunday-live-stream/>

You can either watch the service/bible study on the Grace website by clicking the play button OR you can click on the "Watch on YouTube" button (lower left) and you'll be able to chat with us live and ask questions live.

—  LIVE STREAM

 LATEST LIVE STREAM FROM GRACE:



If the video is not visible above, you can visit the [Grace Lutheran YouTube channel](#) as well. If you choose to subscribe (a free feature), you'll get notifications when Grace is broadcasting live.

+ RECENT LIVE STREAMS

To send Grace messages during the Advent services, you must use the *Watch on YouTube* link. The comments will be available to you on the right side of the screen.

**If you have any questions, please email [chris.mangino@gracelutheranmobile.com](mailto:chris.mangino@gracelutheranmobile.com)**



This year, Grace is giving you the opportunity to memorialize someone or give thanks through a special floral/candle arrangement that will be on the windowsills decorating our church on Christmas Eve. The memorials/in honor of/thanksgivings will be included in the Christmas Eve service program and each arrangement will be labeled accordingly. You may take your arrangement home after the last service. Specific window requests cannot be considered as they are placed randomly. Only 22 are available.

Cost per arrangement: \$75

*(Cost will also help offset all of Grace's Christmas Eve decoration expenses.)*

A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the church or you may call the church office. 251-433-2749. **Deadline: December 15<sup>th</sup>.**



Women in Mission (LWML) So you may have heard of us, BUT do you know what we do and who's a part of Women in Mission? Unfortunately, many congregations only know us because of our Mite Boxes; but we do a great deal more. - On a National Level we join with congregations all over the United States to support Women's Bible Studies, Prayer and Leadership as well as collecting monies from Mites and donations to give to Mission Projects both here in the U.S. and abroad. Our 2021-2023 Biennial Goal is \$2,150,000.00 At this time we have \$644,168. Don't EVER underestimate a little MITE BOX! - We are also part of the Gulf States District and the Azalea Zone. Our district votes every 2 years also to support selected local mission projects. And our Azalea Zone meets usually twice a year for a day of in-depth Bible Study, fellowship and often times a local speaker regarding mission opportunities. A portion of our Mite Boxes go to our local missions and the remaining to our National Mission Projects. - Here at Grace we've been in a 'holding pattern' during COVID, like so many of the usual activities have been. We are looking forward to meeting again for Bible Study at our monthly meetings, and to plan and execute projects that show the love of Christ shining through! We'll let you know when our next meeting is - hopefully January. Watch the Church Bulletins for information. AND SO, who's a part of Women in Mission? Actually, EVERY woman in our congregation is a part of LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League). We ask you to join in as an active member. Knowing that you may be too busy to attend our monthly meetings held the first Wednesday of each month in Foundation Hall, you CAN join in projects - some of which are just one-time commitments. The fellowship of Christian believers is a gift from our Heavenly Father. You will be blessed as you study His Word and work to help others to know Christ loves them dearly! So now you know..... and we say THANK YOU for reading this and supporting the work of Women in Mission AND for all you gals, join in, you will be blessed!



## Annual Cookie & Candy Bake Sale

Sunday, December 12th  
(After Worship Service)

All proceeds go to support Women  
In Mission's projects throughout  
the coming year. YUM! YUM!



All women are invited to contribute cookies/candies to the sale. We have boxes for you to use. Bring your cookies BEFORE church on Dec 12th to the kitchen. See Gisela Nobles 251-957-2975 or Linda Schnaser 651-260-2919 for boxes or questions!





I would like to thank all who have responded with their pledge cards. The individual amounts are entirely confidential, but I wanted to say thanks for your support of our church. If you have not returned your pledge card, please do so. If you have misplaced yours or did not receive one, extra pledge cards are in the office. Thank you again for your support for the continued praise and worship of our Lord.

Kimberly Kringel

Stewardship Chairman

*Your 2022 envelopes will be available soon in the church.*

*Please remember the Church at Christmas!*



*MUSIC NOTES*

*Thank you, Lord, for the gift of music and our musicians and choirs.*

**During the month of December, Handbell Choir** meets each Wednesday evening at **4:30 pm** as they prepare to bring us music for our Christmas season.

\*\*\*\*Please contact Chris and Connie Rowe or any choir member if you are interested in joining.



### December Birthdays

- 1- Leisa Myles
- 2- Cary March, Sr.
- 4- Julie Harvey
- 5- Stuart Wilson
- 7- Gisela Nobles
  - Jacob Beck
  - Philip Erdman
  - Marilyn Kearney
- 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

### December Wedding Anniversaries

- 3 – Randy and Jan Tanner
- 25- Anthony and Annetta Seckel
- 28- Chris and Jen Mangino

### January Birthday

- 2- Thomas Griffin
- 4- Landyn West
- 5- Chris Griffin Jr.
  - Otha 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
- 30 – Pete Meyer
- 31- David Hoffman Jr.



### January Wedding Anniversaries

- 5- Chris and Connie Rowe



**Grace Lutheran's Church  
Council wishes you a happy New  
Year with God's continued  
guidance and blessing as we  
ring in a new decade. God be  
with you in 2022!**

