

Sing  
Joy  
to All  
the  
World!

December 2021

**Sing Joy to All the World!**

The Sanctuary Choir will present the cantata, *Sing Joy to All the World! A Christmas Celebration* on Sunday, December 19, at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services. Narrators are Pastor Tom Brodbeck and Roger Reed and the Choir will be directed by Barbara Blackburn and accompanied by Bev Kaech. The overriding theme is *Joy*. The message of the cantata "celebrates the promise that joy comes to those who wait. Following the long dark night, the breaking of dawn brings joy for the new day." Jesus is that *Joy*! The Choir will share the good news of Jesus and call you to share it, too.

In the words of the composer, Lloyd Larson, "We live in a world where short-term promises and quick fixes are often chosen over lasting solutions. It seems that we need to find ways to invest ourselves in experiences and people who will outlive us, and, in that way, make a difference for generations yet to come. Jesus came to provide us with a deep and lasting joy; a joy that could truly fill the void in our lives, a void that we often attempt to satisfy with temporal things."

"We pray that you and all who hear the choir sing this Christmas work will experience anew the joy of the compelling story of God becoming human and living with us in a way that changed our world forever!"

*"Though our world is dark, Your light overcomes the darkness.*

*Though we have wandered, Your love is steadfast.*

*Though we lose our way, You have made a way.*

*Though our fear is great, Your joy is greater."*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! - Barbara Blackburn

## PASTOR'S REFLECTION

"For unto us a son was given ..." (Isaiah 9:6)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son ..." (John 3:16)

Doesn't it make sense that Christmas is filled with gift-giving? Think about it. Giving is at the very heart of God. He gave us the most valuable thing He had – a son – so that we undeserving people could know the joy of eternal life. And though we can give nothing of equal value in return, yet God continually gives to us out of His abundant riches. Our every need is supplied by Him. His gifts keep coming.

Each Christmas Karen and I take a picture of our Christmas tree with all of the presents neatly arranged beneath. The lights sparkle, reflecting off the ornaments and tinsel. It's a beautiful yet fleeting moment. The neatly creased wrapping paper and carefully tied bows will soon be discarded and crumpled. This year, I want to be extra mindful of the gift behind the season as I unwrap the gifts under the tree. May those gifts remind us all of God's gift, His Son.

Karen and I send our very best wishes to each of you this Christmas season. You are very dear to us, and even more so as you have walked with us through the grief of these past few weeks. We hope to be able to express a hearty "Merry Christmas" to you face-to-face, but if not, please know it is heartfelt nonetheless. God bless us, everyone!

---

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LAY MINISTRY

As the year 2021 is winding down, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Ministry Area Coordinators for serving in that capacity. I am blessed to have each of you on my team! Each MAC has the responsibility to oversee a Ministry Area and all of them do that as well as serve in various other ministries. They, like many of our congregation are busy people assisting with the tasks that keep Grace Lutheran Church alive and well. Thanks be to God!

I have been thinking about the theme for 2022, focusing on the song by John Lennon "Imagine." I was thinking along the lines of Imagine there's no people, no people to serve. Focusing on that theme I found it to be rather depressing. So, for 2022 we are going to have a Celebration of Grace! Do not be surprised if you hear the song "Celebrate" by Kool & The Gang. Let the 2022 celebration begin! Blessings, Janet Rice

## CHARITY AUCTION

The Grace Charity Auction begins at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, December 4, 2021 so join everyone in the community center and put your 2 cents in. Proceeds from the auction will be donated to Clark County Jail Chaplaincy. Last year Grace members raised \$4,060.00 for H.O.P.E. ministries. Invite your friends and family for a morning of fellowship and fun!



## BRIEF REMINDERS

- **End of the Year Giving-** To receive tax credit for 2021, your offering must be received in the Grace office by noon on Friday, December 31, 2021 or postmarked by December 31, 2021.
- **Blood pressure screenings** are done the 2nd Sunday of every month. Stop by the church office between 1st and 2nd services to have your BP checked.
- **Inclement Weather Policy** for how and when Grace worship and/or other ministries might be closed or cancelled due to inclement weather is as follows: Pastor Brodbeck will contact at least two members of the executive committee for consultation and assistance. If they decide to cancel activities or worship, we will use the One Call Now service that allows each of our households to receive a phone call when we cancel services. Television station WHIO channel 7 will also be alerted. A post will be made on the Grace Facebook page, a notification will be sent out on the Grace APP and a response message will be placed on our telephone answering machine system at Grace.
- Another option for receiving notification is through the WHIO channel 7 web site, by registering to be notified via e-mail or text message if Grace is closed or worship cancelled. For more information, go to [www.whio.com](http://www.whio.com).

## OUTREACH CORNER

Our annual Giving Tree is scheduled to arrive in the main narthex on the last Sunday of November. Although some of the details have changed through the years, this continues to be a great opportunity to help our Snowhill families during Christmas time. Instead of just randomly buying gifts, the Snowhill teachers and counselors specifically target families who they know are working hard to make ends meet and could use a little help when it comes to "extras" for their kids. The tags on the tree reflect actual kids (gender, age, size) and what they've asked for. When you take a tag, buy that item, and deliver it to the church, you are guaranteeing that these children are receiving at least one gift on Christmas. Thank you for considering to participate in this yearly event, and for your continued support of our community!



I thank every member of our congregation for their generosity over this past year. We donated to Habitat's Home for the Holidays. We hosted Children's Rescue Center, Family and Youth Initiatives, LifeWise, and Springfield City Youth Mission during our Outreach breaks. We collected food for and served at St John's food pantry. We also shared surplus Covid dollars with several local ministries.

We promoted collections for Pregnancy Resource Clinic, collected flood buckets and health care kits for NALC disaster relief, school supplies for Snowhill teachers, and supplies for Children's Rescue Center. We are just wrapping up Operation Christmas Child and beginning our Coat Drive and food basket collections for local families. We thank you for the wonderful donations for our team that went to Laurel Mission in October. We hope to go back to Laurel Mission next year and possibly join one of NALC's disaster relief trips as well. Watch for more details. Sandy Thompson, Outreach Coordinator

## CARD MINISTRY TEAM

I recently was reminded how Christmas brings every heart together. It's the perfect time of year to greet others from your heart. And yes, it does do this very thing. You are being Christmas to others every time you send a card/note to one of God's children.

We have been blessed to send cards to over 200 brothers and sisters this year. God is allowing us to show His love, joy, caring, and hope...all His heart holds for them, through His Grace Card Ministry. We are given opportunities to reach people we otherwise would never have known. We are able to spread and share the spirit of Christmas each time we pray over and send our snail mail notes. He has allowed us to do this for Him. I give heartfelt thanks to Him for providing us these chances to share His faithfulness and for reminding others of His unending Love He has for them (and for us!).

Throughout this year, I'm certain you have been especially touched by some of the requests and have continued to send cards/notes to those whose lives are still not the same, those still struggling, and need to be reminded about God's presence. I know I have been and what a blessing it has been for me to be able to do so. I feel God has placed these precious people right inside our hearts to live forever so we can think about them, pray for them and send gentle reminders of His Love for them.

I pray the miracle of Christmas brings you heartfelt joy, happiness, contentment, and peace. I also pray and give thanks for you who provide those same blessings throughout the year to our many card recipients we receive. God is watching over us and how truly gifted we are to be His children.

Merry Christmas! May you always feel God's love and hope throughout the new year. Love, Deb O'Neal

---

## HEARTFELT THANKS

I want to give a special thank you to all who sent birthday cards to me for my 98th birthday. It was such a thrill receiving beautiful cards from everyone and a true blessing! Minola Bernardi

The Benne family would like to thank the members of your congregation for their prayers for Irene Benne. Although Irene has good and bad days, the thing she enjoys the most is having the dozens and dozens of thoughtful cards sent by your members, being read to her each day. You certainly have helped to brighten up her days! Thank you all for your kindness. Fondly, Ken and Pat family and the extended Benne family

Dear Grace Family,

You have overwhelmed me with your cards and the sentiments so lovingly expressed. Reading them (more than once) brought tears, chuckles and treasured memories of my 65 years in this very special place, appropriately named Grace. I look forward to serving with you, in Grace, for as much time as the Lord will grant me. Thank you and God bless you. In His Love, Clem Meyer



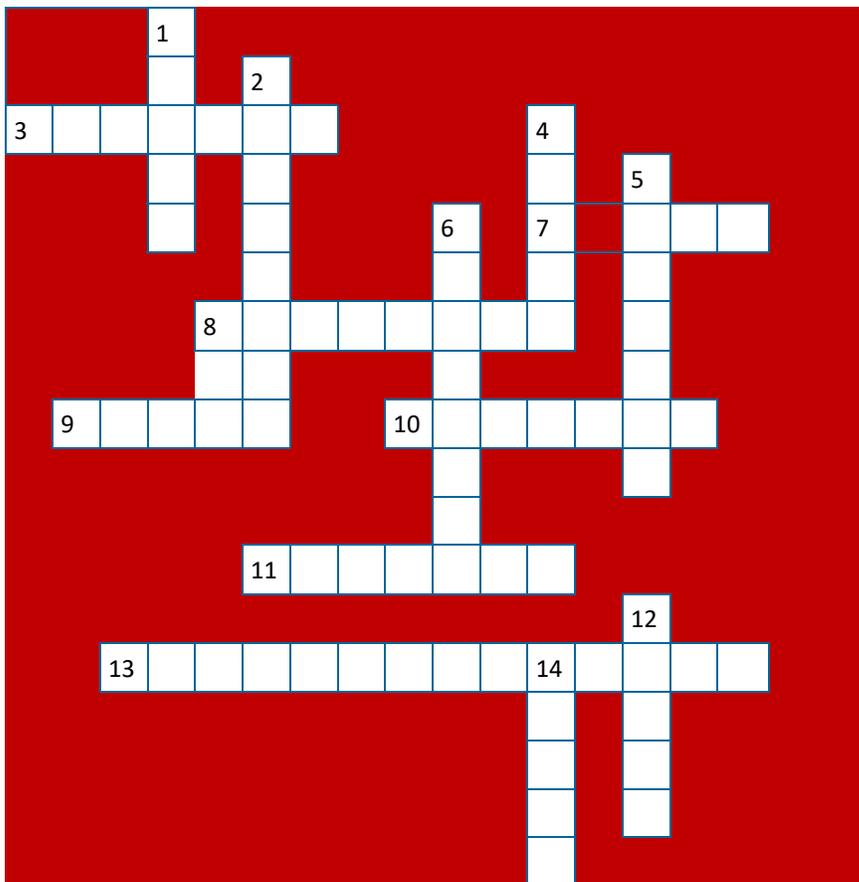
# LAY MINISTRY FUN CORNER

## ACROSS

3. What is the name of the angel who appeared to Mary?
7. What is Ralphie's little brother's name in the movie *A Christmas Story*?
8. In what city was Jesus brought up as a child?
9. Who wanted to kill Jesus?
10. Which country started the tradition of putting up Christmas tree?
11. In what country did Silent Night originate?
13. In the song *Twelve Days of Christmas*, what is given on the 7th day?

## DOWN

1. In "Home Alone", where are the McCallisters going on vacation when they leave Kevin behind?
2. What direction did the wise men travel to going to Jerusalem?
4. What is the original meaning in Latin of Noel?
5. Which country did eggnog come from?
6. In Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, what is the first name of Scrooge?
12. In what month of Elisabeth's pregnancy did the angel appear to Mary?
14. The movie *Miracle on 34th Street* is based on what real-life department store?



Our Ministry nod for December is to **Worship Ministry. Faith** those with this gift have such unwavering trust and confidence in God that others are inspired to greater faith and trust in God as well. Those with the gift of **Miracles** are able to do great and mighty deeds that transcend the laws of nature.

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

www.grace-nalc.org 937.399.6257

Springfield, OH 45504

1801 St. Paris Pike

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Springfield, OH  
Permit #158