



# Week of Grace Newsletter

November  
25, 2021

## Appreciation Day

by Pastor Mark Voss

Advent marks the start of a new Christian church year. The festival half of the church year begins with Advent and ends with Pentecost. It focuses on Christ and his coming into our lives.

Advent is an exciting time for all – young and old alike. We often refer to it as the holiday season.

In Advent the Word of God invites us to prepare for the coming of Christ. The readings for Advent have this urgency to them: Since he is surely coming again in judgment, we desperately need for him to come to us first in

grace. For without that coming in grace we will perish at his coming in judgment. The Prayer for the Day on each Sunday in Advent is especially beautiful. These ancient prayers were said by many of the faithful even during the week when children would take turns reciting them as they lit the candles on the Advent Wreath.



The Advent Wreath became quite popular in homes in post-Reformation Germany. In many German homes, families had a custom of lighting four candles during advent, candles placed in a

wreath of evergreens. When these candles were lit, Scripture and prayer was part of the custom and the family devotion time was a time of instructing the children about Christ's coming. Later, the custom crossed over different denominational lines and other faith traditions adapted its use.

In Lutheran circles we call the first candle the Hope Candle. The second candle is called the Peace Candle. The third candle is pink and is called the Joy Candle. The fourth candle is called the Love Candle. For all of these themes, appropriate Scripture references are used to help us appreciate the various Advent themes of preparation, repentance, fulfillment of promises, and the joy of Christ's coming. If there is a

fifth, a white candle in the center, it is called the Christ Candle, and is lit on Christmas.

In addition to our Sunday service, we will have a midweek Advent devotion on Wednesday evenings at 7p. This will be preceded by a dinner at 6p. Our theme is "Getting Ready for Christmas."

## Call Status

by Trey Patterson

Happy Thanksgiving! We have so much to be thankful for both as individuals and as a church family. As I celebrate Thanksgiving with my family and look forward to seeing the Cares tomorrow evening in Florida, I am so thankful for the wonderful relationships our Lord has given our family through his Church. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve each of you and worship with you each Sunday. I am thankful for God providing us the Voss's while in vacancy. They have been a tremendous source of love and support for our little ministry in West Texas. Most of all, I am thankful for the grace our Lord and Savior has given us through his innocent sacrifice.

Our next call meeting will be on December 1<sup>st</sup>, following the Advent service, which is scheduled to end around 7:30pm. As mentioned, my family and I are currently out of town and will be that week, so Peter Martens will facilitate the call meeting. On another note, we chose this time slot to be good stewards of everybody's time. Instead of having a Wed night service and then a call meeting on Thursday, we opted to combine them for your convenience. In doing so, unfortunately, Pastor Patterson will have responsibilities at Holy Word in

Austin that evening. He has committed to us that he will be available by phone if we absolutely need him, but has asked Pastor Voss to serve as a pastoral representative that evening.

I hope all can come and participate in this important work for our church. Remember to speak up and make sure that all concerns or question, no matter how great or small are placed on the table.

May the Lord bless your day,

*Trey*

# What's Happening

## • Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>

- Sunday School – 9:15am, Worship - 10:30 am - In Person and Via Livestream.

## • Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

- Advent Meal 6:00pm with devotion to follow
- **Call Meeting 7:30pm, following devotion**

## • Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

- Sunday School 9:15am, Worship - 10:30 am - In Person and Via Livestream.
- Communion in person or arrangements can be made with Pastor Voss

## • Looking Ahead

We are currently taking special offerings to cover potential moving expenses for our next pastor. These expenses will depend on many factors, but we have estimated that a good starting point will be \$5,000. If you are so moved please consider this special offering to aid and assist a smooth transition of our next shepherd.



# Useful Information

## Prayer Requests



### PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have prayer requests, please text Pastor Voss at 303-808-0611. Include in the text if you wish the prayer to be public or private. Please also feel free to call Pastor Voss if you need pastoral care.

## Website Development

While we continue to modify and enhance our website capability, feel free to reach out to Trey with any comments or suggestions. We've simplified the Livestream logon process and hope that those of you who tune in, notice and enjoy the difference.

## Last Week's Sermon



## Join Us Via Livestream

## Live Stream Login

# Invitation From Pastor Thomford

Good morning to you at your current place of worship and ministry,

Amazing Grace Lutheran in Amarillo, TX would love to extend the invitation to you and all the members at your current church to join our mission group on March 4-5, 2022 for some intentional evangelism training. There is a group in WELS called Praise and Proclaim that is led and put together by lay people who come in for in-depth and valuable mission/evangelism training.

Our mission church is bringing Praise and Proclaim in March 4 -5 (Friday evening and most of Saturday) for some intensive training. In turn, you could use the very insights and things gained in your own communities and churches.

We are also hoping to bring in a mission team from Martin Luther College and we could share this group with you and your current ministries in Lubbock and Midland. They could spend a few days in Amarillo and then travel down to Lubbock and Midland if that would work out for your church. We will have to chat about it.

Here is the website link to find out more <https://praiseandproclaim.com/>

*The document attached also* includes vital info about the two-part training and experience you and your members will obtain.

Right now, Amazing Grace has applied for a grant to cover the full expense of the course beside the cost of your travel and stay up in Amarillo. We can work through some of that if the travel and hotel stay is a huge factor.

I'm serious when I say we it's really awesome to hear evangelism practices and insights from our own lay people. When we look at West Texas and our future West Texas churches, we need to bring the gospel to people because our Savior has made us part of his eternal plan for all people. We would love for you to start communicating this invitation with your church members and putting it on your calendars. A formal sign-up will come in December but we would love for you to join us in our calling as we see Christ' love.

Let me know what questions or concerns you may have!

In Him,

Pastor Hans Thomford  
Amazing Grace Amarillo  
806-220-1108  
Mark 10:45