

COUNTDOWN TO ADVENT
WE'RE HAVING A PARTY DEC 3
BEGINNING AT 5:30PM UNTIL 7:30PM
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. HOLLY C
IS PROVIDING THE SPEGHETTI FOR
ALL.

THERE WILL BE ORNAMENTS TO
MAKE FOR ALL AGE BRACKETS.
COME AND ENJOY A FAMILY
ORIENTATED EVENT AND BRING A
FRIEND.

2017

January and a new year comes round faster
than one wants sometimes.

Our Annual congregation meeting will be
held on **January 22 at 12 noon**

Council members who are liaisons to
various teams are reminded to get your
report into the office ASAP .Lily will need it
by the 8th of Jan..

Others who have chaired an event. Please
send her your short report as well.

These are used as historical records for
future generations as well as for the current
membership to see what we have
accomplished this past year.

For those asking:
Interim Pastor Martha Stum's new address::
1302 D Karris Lane
Marion , Ill 62959

Our prayers are with the Willcut family as
they mourn Walt's passing from this life
into the arms of Jesus on Nov 15. A
memorial service will be held in January,



Our annual WARMING TREE will be up
the first Saturday in Advent. Nov 26 and
waiting to heave its bare limbs filled with
gloves, scarves and beanies for the homeless
Donations will go to Plowshares as in past
years.



We will put up and decorate the Sanctuary
Chrismon Christmas Tree on **Sat 12/17 at 3
PM** Please bring a plate of cookies to eat or
share as ALL join in the spirit of the season
by helping to decorate our sanctuary!

Many hands make light work!!!!

Congratulations to Dennis & Jerri Hadley on
the birth of their great grand son on Oct 14. .
He came in a little over 8 lbs. Mom and
baby doing fine!



Christmas Worship Services will find a few changes this year. A Family early service will be held at 7 PM with the later service held at 11PM on Saturday the 24th. Both will be candlelight and offer communion.

On Sunday Dec 25th there will be one service at 10AM with lots of music and carols. Pastor Kristi has designed this worship experience and it promises to be a great experience for all.

Sunday Jan 1 New Years Day will also have only one service at 10 am.

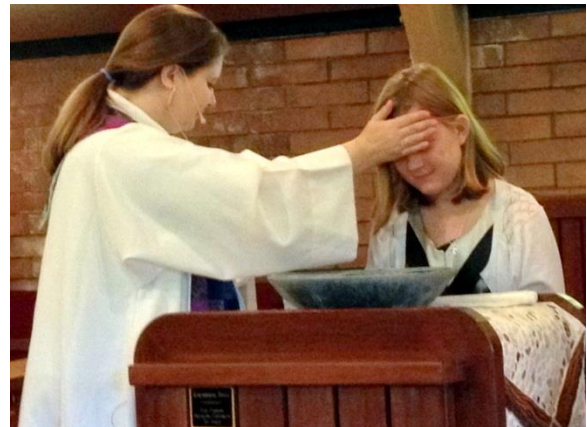
Invite your house guests, neighbors and friends alike to worship the new born King of kings and Lord of lords . Jesus the Christ.



Honor a loved one or remember those who have passed into their eternal reward by donating a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary this Christmas season, The cost is \$10.00 with your check due by Dec 11. If you did not get a form please call the office at 462-7795 or Anne Barnes who is spear heading this project.



The Sunday School youth are showing us how to help others with their penny ministry. Lets help them out with our penny's placed in the offering plate. They go to benefit our local law enforcement K-9 officers.



We welcomed Miss Sierra Parker into the family of God and Grace Lutheran with her baptism on Oct 23 . It was a pleasure to see her express so much joy

Nor Cal Christian Ministries Day Shelter Grant Proposal.

I want to share with the members the final outcome of the grant written on behalf of this Christian Ministry. It was not awarded, although I was told that the project had merit but showed a lack of financial support from our congregation as well as a lack of our committed volunteers.

Christmas Memories

Christmas is a time when many of us look back in our lives to a favorite memory of this special holiday. This year is no different as some Grace members travel down memory lane.

Sierra P likes to decorate the tree and especially loves her presents. Her favorite gift was an electric scooter she received one year.

Lynn E loves any Christmas that has family around her.

Hilde M recalls a time in Germany as a young person, that the Christmas trees grew in the cemetery next to the church. When the doors were opened they saw the decorated tree with live burning candles on it, then received a few presents in a stocking

Don B says he has vivid memories in about 1946 being at his grandfather's house, My aunt sent a big box filled edible goodies in it enough for all of us.

Cheryl J recalled a time she spent the Christmas with her step grandparents and grand parents in New Orleans This was the first time I got to have my own stocking with treats in it, an orange , some nuts and a few candies. And there were no holes in the stocking either.

Jeff & Nancy C spoke as one and said they have special times every year for the past 36 that they have lived in Ukiah by traveling to So Calif to be with family. We pack the car with gifts, food etc and go.

As a young boy of 5, Jon T spoke of living in a shack in "Cypress Swamp" where their tree had live burning candles on it. Dad would just get the last one lit when the first one would burn out.

Christmas Eve at the church I grew up in, Pat B says it had been decorated with lots of live trees placed in the front with several evergreen swags hanging the entire length of the sanctuary and a big evergreen wreath hung in each of the 10 stained glass windows and each had a candelabra with 5 real candles in them. At the end of the service the ushers gave each person a box of candy chocolate creme drops.

I sat and watched my first HO gauge train for over half an hour go round and round. , We lived in Seattle Wa and I was about 7 or 8 yrs old. I even put all the tracks together without help says Tom K. What a wonderful memory, my first train.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL!



Praise for the Three



God the Father, you are the Almighty, the Creator of the universe, You are the beginning and end; You are love , Love that never ends. You are powerful and mighty. Your forgiveness never runs out nor your patience. Your word is everlasting and soothing to the soul and provides wisdom, understanding and peace. Because of you, we may have everlasting life, You chose us to be your children. Thank you Father.

God, the Son, you are the gift of the Father, to save us from ourselves. You are the gift we don't deserve, but our Father because of His grace and forgiveness chose to allow you, His precious son to suffer and die for us, to be the expiation for our sins. When on earth, you became the example of love, forgiveness, joy, peace, righteousness, self sacrifice, long suffering, perseverance, patience, generosity, justice and so much more. Without you, life is all in vain. Thank you Lord Jesus.

God the Holy Spirit, you are our life line to the Father. Our Lord Jesus sent you to be our advocate, our helper, our guide, our comforter, our leader, You are the wind that blows wherever you are needed. You come to us quickly and quietly, speaking softly. There is no place you cannot enter. You await our invitation to enter our lives and to joyfully restore us to righteousness , to guide us, comfort us and reassure us of your presence, Thank you Holy Spirit. Amen



In the mail from Grandma Diane Pauli !

And is it True? And is it True?

The most tremendous tale of all,
No love that in a family dwells,
No caroling in frosty air

Nor all the steeple shaking bells
Can with the simple Truth compare—
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

The **Ham It Up Dinner** netted **approximately \$1400.00** that will be donated to Project Sanctuary. Blessings to all that donated the sweet treats for the auction and to Thrivent Financial with their seed action grant of \$250.00 . Project Sanctuary is a place of refuge for abused men and women and their minor children who are desiring to put their lives back together.

Look Familiar ???



Needing to change a bit?? Try sitting
In different a seat every Sunday!



and you thought all Tyler did was play music, go to
work or college. His ladies took 1st place honors.



Thanks to John Strittmatter for taking pulpit duties the 1st Sun of Advent. It is appreciated !!!

Don't forget to come and vote (oh no, again) at the annual meeting for the 2017 budget proposal and who you want in various leadership positions. Meeting is the 22nd. At high noon----

Thanks to Jennifer Z for leading worship in Nov . She has a great voice, and to Shelia P. for filling in as Tyler was out of town leading the UHS cheer squad (See the victory photo above)

Thanks to out going council members for your service

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL