

December 2021



WORDS OF GRACE

Monthly Newsletter

Inside the Issue

WHAT'S IN THE POWER OF A NAME

Pastor Brad unpacks several names of God and calls us to consider the power of the name the Lord has given to each of us. See page 2.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARK

As he enters his third month with us at Grace, Pastor Mark shares a few thoughts about our transition and how we are collectively hearing God speak and lead us. See page 3.

WOMEN OF GRACE REFLECTION

Carol Bauer shares this month's Reflection. What is the meaning of generosity? How do we apply what God says about living generously in our lives? See pages 4 & 5

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS...

- Dec 5 Adopt a Soldier DEADLINE
Worship with Communion
- Dec 6 Elders Meeting, 6:30pm
- Dec 12 Giving Tree DEADLINE
Youth Christmas Party - See Brad for details
- Dec 17 Staff Christmas Party
- Dec 19 Pastor Grant's Ordination Service
Last AWANA / NO Youth Group
- Dec 24 Office Closes at 11:30am
Christmas Eve services, 5:00 & 6:30pm
- Dec 26 NO AWANA or Youth Group
- Dec 27 Church Office closed
- Dec 31 Church Office closes at 11:30am. Happy New Year!

"THE SON OF GOD
BECAME A MAN
TO ENABLE MEN
TO BECOME SONS
OF GOD."

- C.S. Lewis

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRAD



What is in a name?

How often do we stop and consider the names that we have been called? Surely if we believe that God knew us from before conception, like he said to Jeremiah in Jeremiah Chapter 1:5, *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you: I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”*, then we should take more cognizance of the name that we have been given.

Case in point to **the power of a name**. I had a conversation with a man during which time I asked him what his brothers had called him when he was growing up. The family had lived through some dangerous situations that had almost cost them their lives and had, over the course of his young life, eventually made it to the safety and security of a small American town. He remembers them calling him a name that meant *“little boy”*. Undoubtedly, it was a term of affection for him, and an obvious name that five older brothers might call the youngest son in a family. However, from our conversation, it became apparent that, even though he had accepted the name (and he smiled at the familiarity and comfort that it reminded him of when he was growing up), it was *not actually his real name*, and speaking it caused him embarrassment.

So, I asked him, *“What is your real name, that name which was given to you by your father at your birth?”* He began to tear up at that point and answered, *“my real name is ___ and it means ‘brave.’”* For much of his life he had lived as *‘little boy’*, always being taken care of by his brothers - who he viewed as far more intelligent, prosperous and successful than himself - yet, somewhere deep in his heart was the real name he had been given, *‘Brave’*, and he now needed to live out of that identity, so he could bring purpose and determination to the way he would choose to continue to live his life.

Names are important to God. He is constantly introducing himself in new ways to his people by the name he uses. Each name highlights a new aspect of his character and allows us, as we come to learn his name, to come to know him. From the time that God introduces himself to us as *‘Elohim’*, *the Creator God*, in Genesis 1, and throughout the Old Testament, God constantly reveals to us more about himself so that our faith in Him deepens with each revelation.

To Hagar, he is *‘the God Who Sees’*; to Abraham, he is *‘God Almighty’*, *the All-sufficient One* who makes covenant with us; when he calls Abraham to offer up Isaac, he becomes *‘Jehovah Jireh’*, *the God Who Provides*; to Moses, he is *YHWH* or *‘Yahweh’* (Jehovah) but more practically, the *‘God Who Is’* as he introduces himself and tells Moses to tell the people that *“I am Who I am has sent you”*.

A beautiful picture of God and in the symbolism of the action, *Jesus* is found in the account of the bitter water turned sweet when God tells Moses to take the tree and throw it into the water so that people are able to drink...(think here of *Jesus* saying later in John 7 that he is the *living water* and follow up that thought in Revelation 22 and the *trees which line the river of God whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.*)

God does not stop in the Old Testament to introduce only Himself, but also uses the prophets to prepare the way for the coming of the *Messiah, Jesus*. Perhaps the most well-known of these names, apart from *Jesus* himself, is the name found in Isaiah 7:14, *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”* How clear does God need to be with his intentions once he has told us the name of the son means *“God With Us”*? And yet still we doubt, so God reiterates his intentions by having Isaiah prophesy again, this time written in Isaiah 9:6, *“and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

So as we approach the Christmas season, we should ask ourselves by which name does God want each of us to know Him, so that we can receive the greatest gift ever, an intimate relationship with Him, with the Son, *Jesus*, and with Holy Spirit.

Peace to all of us in this season of Thanksgiving, rejoicing and celebration!

NEWS & NOTES



A Note From Pastor Mark

More than a few people have commented that they appreciate my “*enthusiasm*.” I’m glad that is the perception because it is, generally, the reality! I am, most of the time, an optimistic, enthusiastic person. My cup isn’t half empty or even half full; “*my cup runneth over!*”

Four decades of leading churches have produced some scars and heartbreaks, but more importantly, it has built up my faith and confidence in the God we worship and serve! He has proven Himself to be able to do everything in and through His people (when they’re surrendered to Him and trusting Him) that He wills to do.

The Lord is my Shepherd and in Him, I have everything I need! Oh, that all those who know Him would declare the same; enthusiastically!

So, as I help Grace Church navigate transition following Pastor Barry’s many years of leadership, I am justified in an enthusiastic approach to my task. I don’t question God’s desire or ability to lead Grace “*in the paths of righteousness*” nor His desire and ability to “*restore souls*” – nourishing His people for the ministry pathway on which He leads.

Therefore, three months into my interim calling here at Grace, I can tell you that God is showing His presence, His power, and His purpose, His plan, and His provision! **Here’s part of what we’re collectively hearing God say in these days (through my conversations with you, meetings with Elders, pastors, and my own prayer meetings with Him)...**

- Barry and family are loved and missed but you surrendered him to God’s plan and purpose for his life and ministry. That’s good!
- Also good is that you realize you may have over-dependended on Barry for so many things in the church. He became the “go-to guy” for far too much; perhaps at the expense of him having time for developing leadership in others, responsibility and accountability among the Elders as well as deploying additional lay leaders in the church.
- And it is good you see that God is calling for a change for the sake of the spiritual and organizational health as well as the growth and fruit-bearing of the church and Kingdom.
- I believe you are ready, willing, and able to work together on the church’s primary mission of worshiping God authentically and passionately, being developed as mature disciples of Jesus through deeper Bible study with accountable life application, prayer, true fellowship, and working more strategically to engage the community with the gospel of Jesus through relational, missional lifestyles.
- And I believe you don’t need or want the pastors and Elders to do everything themselves; you need them to be shepherds of the flock, leadership builders, disciple-makers, and ministry enablers. I believe God is showing you that the church is best served, not by being leadership-dependent, but by being leadership-facilitated and God-dependent.

That means you want what God wants! And when His church is in agreement with what He wants, He is pleased to pour out His Spirit and provide ALL that is needed to achieve what He desires!

JOIN US FOR

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Friday, December 24th
5:00 & 6:30pm at Grace

The 5:00pm
will also
be streamed
LIVE

Our Christmas Eve offerings will be given to the Fond du Lac Warming Shelter which is managed by the Salvation Army. They operate Fond du Lac County’s only warming shelter Nov. 1 through March 31.



CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

- Fri. Dec. 24th | Office closes at noon
- Mon. Dec. 27th | Closed (regular hours resume on Tues. Dec. 28th)
- Fri. Dec. 31st | Office closes at noon
- Tues. Jan. 3rd | Regular hours resume

Have a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT THE 2021 OFFERING DEADLINE!

The deadline for 2021 offerings is Thursday, December 30, 2021. If you are mailing your offering, please make sure it is mailed in sufficient time to arrive by WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29, to make the year-end deadline. Any offerings received in the mail after the December 30th deadline will not be counted towards 2021 offerings. No exceptions can be made as deposits and recordings will be taking place in this timely matter. If you have any questions, please call the church office.



Wondering what to do in the case of INCLEMENT WEATHER?

Find out about any church-related cancellations by listening to KFIZ (1450 AM), going to www.kfiz.com or by checking the **YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP FOR OUR TEXTING SERVICE!** Text the word “*grace*” to 86677 for weather cancellations and other important updates!



It’s that time of year! **CHRISTMAS CARDS** have started to arrive. Please be sure to stop by the church on Sundays or during weekly office hours to check your mailbox. Many of them are already quite full! (If you are a regular attender and would like a church mailbox please contact the Office!)



DEC. AWANA SCHEDULE

- Dec. 5 - Team Color Night
- Dec. 12 - Scarf Night
- Dec. 19 - Shop-Til-You-Drop Night
- Dec. 26 - **MERRY CHRISTMAS (NO AWANA)**





Monthly Reflection

Generosity

“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”

— JOHN WESLEY



The story of the Bible is an example of extravagant generosity born out of love. We read in John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, **that he gave**..... ”

God indeed is the definition of generosity. He is patient, kind, and faithful. Therefore in our desire to be Christ imitators, He requires generosity in His children. We are called to be abundantly generous with our time, money, creativity, and patience, bringing practical help to those in need.

This fall the Women of Purpose Groups are focusing on the biblical meaning of generosity and exploring ways they could apply it within our own church and community.

Women of Grace Ministry Opportunities

Meal Ministry

Meals are prepared for Grace families when a need arises (i.e. illness, the birth of a baby, or death in the family)

How can you help?

- Serve as a monthly meal coordinator- We are in need of two coordinators for 2022
- Volunteer to be on the list to provide meals when needed

Coordinator: Carol Bauer

Finding Common Ground

This Woman to Women Ministry is to help develop meaningful friendships with women in need of companionship

How can you help?

- Sign up to be paired with another woman

Coordinator: Pat Janzen

Funeral Serving Ministry

A luncheon is typically served for funerals held at Grace Church. The ladies of Grace usually volunteer to assist in preparing and serving the family and guests.

How can you help?

- We are looking for an additional co-coordinator to organize the food and helpers
- Volunteer to provide food or help serve at funerals

Coordinator: Fran Trewin

Not Forgotten of Fondy

Supporting moms who have lost a child from the age of conception to adult.

How can you help?

- Befriend a mom who has lost a child
- Become a prayer partner for families and provide encouragement on anniversary days of losses/birthdays
- Help organize events - Donate food, Decorations, Favors for moms, Solicit business donations
- A Christmas Event will be planned soon.
- Provide help with the website,
- Pass out brochures and/or literature to someone you know who has experienced child loss.
- Check out their library of books for yourself or others

Coordinator: Melanie Christenson at melcchr9@gmail.com
visit [facebook.com/fondychildloss](https://www.facebook.com/fondychildloss)

Stamps for Missions

Funds from the sale of used stamps provide aid in Argentina for publishing Sunday School material in Spanish

How can I help?

- **Save and trim** your postmarked stamps and drop them off in the basket located above the coat racks

Coordinator: Justeen Bond

Christmas "Giving" Tree

Christmas gifts and food boxes are given to families through a sponsored organization. This year's organization is Youth for Christ's Parent Life - which supports teenage mothers and their families

How can I help?

- Volunteer to shop, sort, and wrap gifts and pack food boxes.

Coordinator: Jamie Trewin

Community Volunteer Opportunities

Charis Pregnancy Center

- Become a mentor for Charis.

Contact Cindy at 920-933-5580

Exploit No More

- Kit bags for trafficked girls. Can include optional selections of help aids.

Contact Mary Tighe 920-579-9706 for further information.

World Relief Program

- Resettlement of refugees to the Fox Valley.

For more info contact *Karen Crisler* Community Engagement Manager at kcrisler@wr.org or 920-560-2187 <https://worldrelief.org/fox-valley>.

Heartland Hospice

- Putting tie blankets together for dying veterans and their families.

Contact Amy at 800-236-1989.

Fondy Food Pantry

- Greeters, Registration, Shopping Hosts, Escort Clients, Checkout needed!!!

Contact office@fondyfoodpantry.org for more detailed information.

Loaves and Fishes

- Help serve weekly meals at Church of Peace or contribute to Food Pantry.

Contact Jackie at 920-921-8215

We hope this list has inspired you and we encourage you to use your talents generously.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

- Hebrews 13:16



Submitted by Carol Bauer

The Anchor Holds

by Jack Witte

I lay my “whys” before your cross in worship kneeling ... my mind too numb, my heart beyond all feeling ... And worshiping, realize that I in knowing You ... don't need a “why”.

Ruth Graham Bell

Do you realize that God means for each of us to be exactly where we are? The circumstances we find ourselves in are not some cosmic blunder ... we are exactly where God has planned for us to be. Sometimes, trusting God can be very difficult and involved. The trial you are facing hasn't caught God off guard, nor has the hardship you may be experiencing occurred outside of God's control and His love. I want to make it clear that I am not saying that whatever is happening is a good thing, but it is all part of God's wonderful plan for each of our lives.

In Psalm 71:20, David makes this blunt statement, *“Though You have made me see troubles, many and bitter, You will restore my life again.”* In other words, “Lord, the things I've gone through have not been fun, yet I will trust in You!” Robert J. Morgan, in his book The Red Sea Rules says, “When you are in a difficult place, realize that the Lord either placed you there or allowed you to be there, for reasons perhaps known for now only to Himself.” Faith is all about trust. Trusting God's perfect timing. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”* Corrie ten Boom once said ... “Do not be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” Psalm 40:4 tells us, *“Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust.”* As you begin this new day, put your complete trust in our Loving Father. God's resources can't be exhausted, and He will provide everything you will need to see you through today and every day. Let me share this prayer from my notes on The Red Sea Rules ...

“Lord, I don't like what's going on and I don't understand what's going on. But I believe that I am here in this situation by Your appointment and for Your purposes. I believe that just as You led me into this situation ... You will lead me out.”
You are our Anchor, and You never fail those who put their complete trust in You.

“If you could see what I once was, if you could go with me. Back to where I started from ... I know you would see. A miracle of love that put me in its sweet embrace and made me what I am today ... just an old sinner saved by grace!”

I copied these words from a song called “A Sinner Saved by Grace” because it serves to remind me of the miracle that happened one sunny Sunday morning in September of 1976. If you have read my “Anchors” over the years, I have frequently made mention of the day that I accepted God's invitation and asked Jesus to live in me.

The next verse is ... “I'm just a sinner, saved by grace. When I stood condemned to death ... He took my place. Now I live each breath in freedom with each breath of life I take. Loved and forgiven. Back with the living, I'm just a sinner ... saved by grace.”

That is what I am, a sinner saved by grace. How about you? Aren't we all, all who believe in Jesus? The grace of God that saved us is a gift that none of us have earned, nor deserve. Ephesians 2:8 explains, *“For by grace we have been saved, through faith. This is not of our own doing; it is a gift of God.”*

God's gift of salvation is so simple, yet so difficult for many to understand. For it stands in complete opposition to the idea that many people have ... that by living a good life and being a nice person, you can earn your way to heaven. John 3:16 makes it very clear ... *“For God so loved the world (You and me) that He gave us His only Son, that those who believe in Him shall never perish, but live forever with Him.”* God's gift is free, none can earn it.

The best definition of “**GRACE**” I have ever read is this ... “**God's Riches At Christ's Expense**”. At our very best, we are nothing more than ... “An old sinner saved by Grace”.

Your Anchor will hold ... in spite of your storms!

ENJOY SOME CHRISTMAS FUN!



Merry
Shepherds
Hope
Swaddling
Star

Peace
Manger
Angel
Family

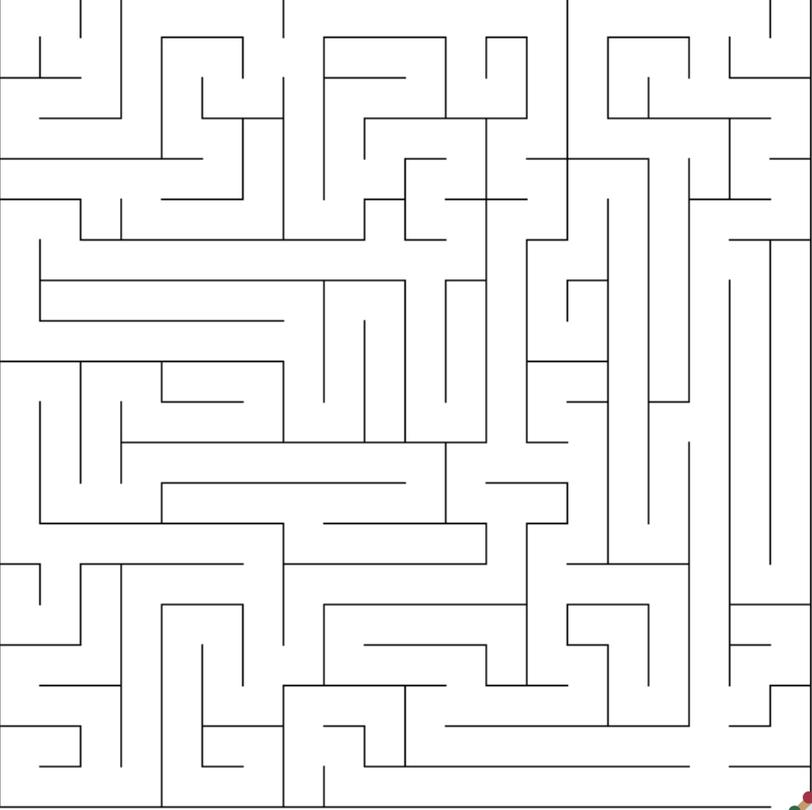
UNSCRAMBLE THESE CHRISTMAS WORDS!



Yermr	-----		
Tars	-----	Neamrg	-----
Miafyl	-----	Enalg	-----
Hpserhdes	-----	Ophe	-----
		Ceepa	-----
		Wdgsnlaid	-----

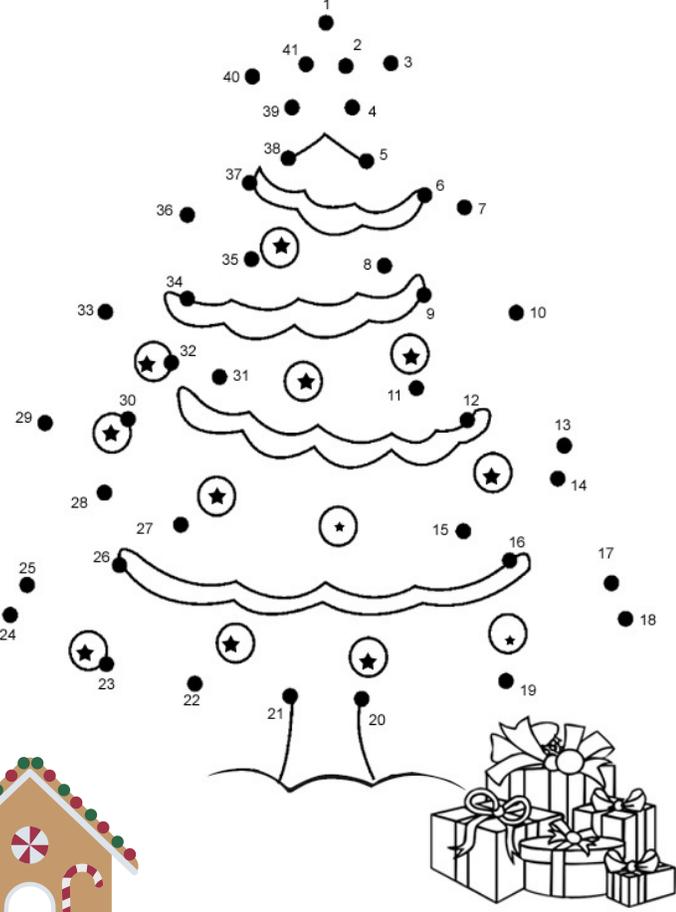


HELP THE REINDEER REACH THE HOUSE BY FINISHING THE MAZE!



©www.BigActivities.com

Connect the dots to finish decorating the Christmas Tree!





163 18th Street
 Fond du Lac, WI 54935
 office@gracechurchfdl.net
 www.gracechurchfdl.org

CORPORATE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:
 Sunday mornings at 8:45am
 Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm
 Wednesday AM Men's prayer at 6:30am.

*All meet at
 Grace Church
 building*

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd - *Jesus Christ*

Pastor Grant Baumgart - *Worship & Admin*

cell: 948-6373 email: baumgart@gracechurchfdl.org

Pastor Brad Rutherford - *Youth & Family*

cell: 313-0456 email: rutherford@gracechurchfdl.org

Pastor Mark Voll - *Interim*

cell: (479) 372-8853 email: voll@gracechurchfdl.org

Administrative Assistant - *Carol Blain*

phone: 922-7211 email: office@gracechurchfdl.net

Communications/Media Coordinator - *Rachel Titel*

email: cmc@gracechurchfdl.org

Custodian - *Mark Jopling*

phone: 922-7211 cell: (920)979-3944

Custodial Assistant - *Jen Koenigs*

Elder on Call: *Friday, Saturday & Sunday*

(920) 948-9262

Offering & Attendance

10/03/2021	\$6,269	180
10/10/2021	\$17,972	157
10/17/2021	\$7,947	174
10/24/2021	\$11,723	N/A
10/31/2021	\$5,677	156

October Weekly Ave: \$9,917.60 167

(October shortfall **-\$1,613**)

Weekly average needed to meet budget

\$10,142

Year to Date Givings \$162,131

Year to Date Expenses \$163,744

Year to Date Shortfall **-\$1,613**

Totals reflect October month-end totals

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit information for the
January Words of Grace
 to the church office by **December 15th.**
 You can contact the office at (920) 922-7211 or
 office@gracechurchfdl.net

Office Hours are:

Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm

Friday 8:00am-11:30am