

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
1326 South 26th Street
Omaha, NE 68105-2380

402-341-7730

Email: graceluth@graceluth.com

Web Site: www.graceluth.com

Like us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/gracelutheranomaha

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS

9:30 a.m. Christian Education

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker

Editor/Church Secretary - Brenda Spahr

Organist - Colleen Jeffrey

Sexton - Alma Lopez

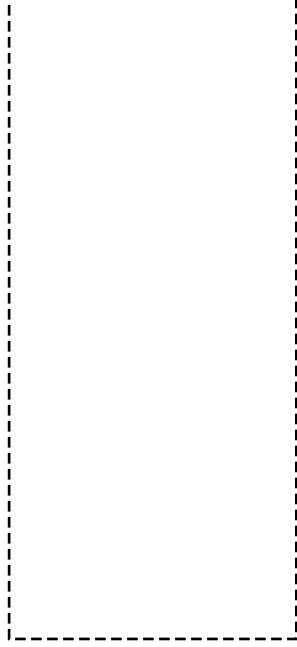
Community Outreach - Malachi Black

Delivered to the Post Office December 1



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THE GRACE MESSENGER

1889 - 2016



Inspired By Christ, it is our mission
to share God's Word and Love in
care and service to all.



2016 Council Members

Ron Adrian	Vicki Cox	Arlone Farber
Ralph Fittle	Greg Hula	Loren Moyer
Brenda Spahr	Amanda Vazquez	Pastor Laaker

Officers Serving the Congregation:		
Financial: Janet Hula	Treasurer: Ralph Fittle	

The regular meeting of the Council was held on November 8th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns for members and friends, for stability and peace in Sudan and Syria, for the people in Haiti, the North Dakota pipeline situation, that there could be a united nation after this election, and for the families of the police officers who were killed in Des Moines.

Pastor Laaker led devotions from Isaiah 6:8 and 1 Corinthians 12:7. The first suggests that we should be eager to volunteer to be a disciple of God and do what God asks of us. The second reminds us that we are all given the opportunity to experience the Holy Spirit.

Visions for Ministry: The author explained the importance of being open, honest, and transparent with those whom we are seeking to empower. People will learn the most when they can see a person live out what they are teaching and then take responsibility in their own lives to apply that which they have learned. All members of the council were encouraged to send out his or her empowerment tests again and be ready to share what we have learned from it.

Committee Reports: Reports were received from the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer. Please continue to give generously.

Christian Education: None.

Evangelism/Outreach: The Halloween party went well. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. Grace Reads Program is going well. We had talked about doing something for the teachers after the holiday break. Malachi will reach out to the principal to see what might be most helpful for the teachers as they return in January.



Continued...

Finance: Endowment Board provided a report. \$2500 has been moved from the contingency fund and deposited in the general fund. The Nebraska Synod is working on raising \$100,000 to help new seminary graduates pay down their debt, support the spiritual director program “seeking the spirit within” in which individuals are trained to become spiritual directors, and cover any shortfalls for mission share. They are asking congregations to make a donation from \$300-\$500. We agreed to ask the Endowment Board to cover this.

Property: The exterior cracks have been fixed and the contractor paid, and the roof was repaired as of today, which will be about \$2200. During this, bats were found living under the shingles. Loren has secured some new windows for the east side of the offices, which will probably come in about a month. Loren and Dustin have offered to install the windows when they come.

Service/Social Ministry: None.

Support/Stewardship: Last Sunday began the 5-week series, Leading Generously.

Worship: Colleen has signed on for another year with us.

Unfinished Business: Vicki brought up the Prison Ministry program that Malachi had mentioned a couple of months ago. She asked Council members to think about if we want to be involved and how we would want to be involved.

New Business: Nomination Committee – who will help us select possible newcomers to Council. Brenda and Arlone volunteered.

Announcements: Pastor will be in Washington, DC for the Voyagers conference. Arlone will bring treats in December.

I pray beautiful, bountiful blessings, into your life and work today. May He use you as His extended hands and show you each step of the way.

Look to our Lord of lords and King of kings, our Savior and Redeemer. Now, put all of yourself into His care for you will be there forever.

—Gordon L. Densmore, Brenham, TX
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In Sundays and Seasons, a resource guide for the church, it says, "The cycle of the church year orders our time in Christian community around the central mystery of our faith: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our experience of this mystery, however, is not

linear – a simple narrative path from beginning to end. Our lives are full of endings and beginnings happening all at once, interspersed with waiting, lament, and hope.

"The 'now-and-not-yet' nature of the fulfillment of our hope in Christ is never more rhetorically real than in the season of Advent. In its great wisdom, the lectionary launches us into this wheel of time with a season that, much like our own lives, is full of endings and beginnings – and, of course, waiting."

I find it interesting that while we give some ascent to these thoughts, our culture is not all that keen on waiting. The radio announcers are already wishing listeners, "Merry Christmas!" Waiting? Not so much. We are an impatient people.

Our ancestors in the faith struggled with the waiting, too. They longed for the coming of the Messiah. They looked and longed for his appearance. Then when the announcement comes, there is a great deal of confusion. Can this be? Even after Jesus begins his ministry and has performed many of the signs of the Messiah, we hear John saying to his disciples, "Go, ask Jesus if he is the one to come or are we to look for another?"

We stand on this side of the story and know the outcome of God's amazing entry into human life. Yet, we struggle with waiting. Some among us try to read the signs and make predictions of times to come.

I am hopeful that as we wait during this season of Advent, we might look for the signs of God's abiding presence in the ordinary days of our lives. While the culture rushes head long into the celebration of Christmas, we can wait patiently and see God's marvelous work in our midst.

In time, we will gather to celebrate the miracle of God's entry into our human experience. Mark your calendar, we will gather for Christmas Eve service at Grace on Saturday, December 24, 4:30 pm and then again at St. Luke's for Christmas Day service at 10 am on Sunday, December 25.

May we find blessings in waiting! May we find joy in celebrating Christ's birth among us.

Pastor Laaker

Christmas Eve Service Schedules

Grace Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Service
4:30 p.m.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
2315 I Street
Christmas Eve Service
6:30 p.m.



Two convenient times and locations to Joyfully Celebrate the wonders of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ in the season of Christmas with friends, family, and loved ones!

Special WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Sundays, Grace and St. Luke's Council Members have decided to have one worship service on each of those Sundays at **10:00 a.m.** Christmas Day worship service will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church and New Year's Day worship service will be held at Grace Lutheran Church.

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

Eight Christmas gifts that don't cost a cent:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The gift of listening. | The gift of affection. |
| The gift of laughter. | The gift of a written note. |
| The gift of a compliment. | The gift of a favor. |
| The gift of solitude. | The gift of a cheerful disposition. |

—via *Apple Seeds*

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And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18

Please keep in your prayers the individuals listed below who have health issues and concerns:

Ron Adrian
Theresa Courtney
Jayne Gustafson
Ken Hilmer
Jack Pablo McGill
Don Olson
Pam Reents
Dan Taylor



Norma Courtney
Andrew Edwards
James Harrahill
Carolyn Matson
LaVonne Moss
Linda Pafford
Brian Sutej
Urbano Vasquez



Pray for wisdom for your Church Council here at Grace Lutheran.

Pray for the Council Members. Ask God to bless their ministry among us. Pray for strength and spiritual wisdom for the leaders in the local church and the Nebraska Synod:

Pastor Damon Laaker, Grace Lutheran Church
Bishop Brian Maas, Nebraska Synod
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Bishop

Pray for the Sudanese community in general. David Nange, John Boato and Charles Tuw are the elders for the Sudanese Worshiping Community.

*Let's encourage each other as we see
God's hand in answering our prayers.*

Pray for our Shut-ins and Nursing Home residents:

Ferne Matson - Home.
Joe and Barbara Narducci - Home.
Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn.



**Grace Quilters for
Lutheran World Relief**

Monday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join a lively group of people and assemble amazing tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief organization. These quilts are delivered around the world to areas most in need of a little comfort. Please feel free to stop by check out the activity. Coffee break and joke time is 10:00 a.m.; another opportunity in fellowship with one another. No experience necessary!

**COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP**

Join us!



**Order Your Poinsettias
Cost is \$7.50**

A Sign-Up Sheet has been posted on the Bulletin Board, please **order before December 11th**

Be sure to designate whether you would like a red or white plant and whether you plan to take your flowers home after the Christmas holiday or leave them at the church to be shared with shut-ins. For your convenience, you can call the church office at 402-341-7730 to place a poinsettia order.



Christmas Mitten Tree

It is that special time of year! The Christmas Mitten Tree will be displayed in the upper fellowship hall during the month of December.

As in past years, during the sales of this Christmas Season, consider adding a pair of mittens, gloves, scarf or any additional warm apparel to place on the mitten tree. Your gift will go to benefit shelters and pantries in the area.



Stewardship Moment

I was reading a blog called Voices On Stewardship. Here is a portion of what the author was reflecting on:



“If you could take one possession of yours, sell it and give the proceeds to the Lord’s work, what would it be?”

“What earthly possession are you willing to part with? If you knew that if you sold your car, someone would be saved and secure his or her place in heaven, would you do it? I spent some time thinking about this, and here is my list:

1. **Watches** (that weren’t personal gifts)
2. **Shoes**
3. **TVs** - How many of you have more than one TV at home? How many of you have four or more?
4. **Cars** - How many of you have more than one car to drive?
5. **Clothes** - How many of you have more than one set of clothes per day in your closet? Who has clothes that haven’t been worn for more than a year? Who has clothes that are new, tags and all, and never been worn?

“**Here’s the hard truth:** Everything I mentioned as a possession to give away are possessions of excess, not sacrifice. Most of us will give away our possessions when we have extra, but how many of us are willing to give out of sacrifice? How many of us would give something away that we hold dear, and, when gone from our possession, would leave a void in our lives or cause us to think and act differently? Now, I am going to ask you the most convicting question of all here today: *When was the last time you actually gave something sacrificial to the Lord?*”

“Stewardship is not simply about accounting for and managing what we have. Nor is it only about giving away possessions of excess. Stewardship is also about sensing the Holy Spirit’s call to give away possessions and money sacrificially when led to do so.

“We are reminded in the Scriptures about what happened in the early church when it came to stewarding and sacrificing possessions for the mission of the gospel:

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet. (Acts 4:32-37, NIV84)

“The question of sacrificial giving and tangible generosity is a good one because it gets to the core of our hearts.”

As I think about the possessions and money that I have accumulated, I seek to give thanks for those gifts from God. I also seek to be generous in my giving to the church and to many other worthwhile organizations.

As you plan your giving for 2017, how might we support the work God calls us to?

Pr. Laaker

Lutheran South Pantry
4401 South 23rd Street
402-502-7070



Items that clients cannot purchase with their food stamps are always appreciated: Dish Soap, Kleenex, Bar Soap, Deodorant, Toothbrush and toothpaste, Shaving Cream, Razors, Mouthwash (without alcohol), Feminine hygiene products, Hair products (combs, brushes, picks), Bathroom tissue, Shampoo, Dry Laundry Soap, Can Openers, Diaper wipers, and Diapers, especially sizes 4, 5, 6 and pull-ups.

We always need paper or plastic bags.



For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

★ Thank you Marilyn and Jerry for their on-going dedication in caring and tending to the plants in the entry way, they continue to thrive and look welcoming.

🎶 Thank you ESL tutors; Malachi, Vicki, Arlone, Mary, and Amanda, for making connections with the students willing to learn and form friendships.

★ Thank you Jerry, Marilyn, Greg, and Janet; who take turns picking up altar flowers every Sunday morning.

🎶 Thank you June, LaVonne, Eva, and Marilyn for your continued dedication in creating a reflection of God's love and care in every quilt sent to support Lutheran World Relief.

★ Thank you LaVonne, June, Gloria, Marilyn, Jerry, Eva, and Malachi for your dedication and help in assembling the monthly Grace Messenger!

🎶 Thank you Ron, Donna and Brenda for taking care of the altar, and preparing the communion table.

★ Thank you to all ushers, Andrew, Jerry, Ron, Vicki, Larry, Mary, and Malachi for greeting everyone on Sunday mornings.

🎶 Thank you to all the Grace readers who participate in reading books and growing imaginations to both 2nd and 3rd grade students at Liberty Elementary School.

★ Thank you to Greg, Janet, Andrew and helpers for decorating throughout the building for the season of Christmas, everything looks wonderful!

One-Liners from JoyfulNoiseletter

"Compassion is language the deaf can hear and the blind can see."
~ Mark Twain

"Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud."
~ Maya Angelou

It is that time of year when everyone is busy planning for the Christmas season. Time with family, friends gathering together to celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior. It is also time to reflect on all the events that have happened during 2016. In the life of the church, reflections are made, collected and assembled into the Annual Report. If you wrote an article last year or were the chairperson of a committee during 2016, it is time to compose your reports again. Please have your annual report in to the office by Monday, January 16th, thank you!



Altar Flowers

The New Year is just around the corner. The 2017 Sign-up opportunities for both the Altar Flowers and the Backpack Program have been posted on the bulletin board. If you would like to acknowledge a special event through sponsorship of either the Altar Flower or the Backpack Program, please sign the date of your choice soon! Favorite dates will be claimed on a first come first signature basis. If you are unable to sign up in person, you can reserve the date for sponsorship by calling the church office at 402-341-7730.

Have You Included
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Endowment Fund
in Your Will?



A current, Remember the Church in Your Will, brochure has been placed on the back table in the sanctuary. Please pick up a free copy during your next worship time and consider Grace Lutheran a place for remembrance.

December 2016



- 4 - Brenda Spahr
- 11 - Greg Hula
- 18 - Terry Nielsen
- 24 - Margie Sutej
- 25 - Worship at St. Luke's
- Jan. 1 - Mary Laaker

- 1 - Nowa Keita
- 3 - Barb Nelson
- 9 - Sharon Irwin
- 15 - Izabella Perales
- 16 - Frankie Costanzo Jr.
- 18 - Marilyn Van Ormer
- 19 - Lee Costanzo
- 22 - Sherif Lado
- 24 - Lola Harsin
- 31 - Joseph Narducci



December Acolytes

- 4 - Janet Hula
- 11 - Vicki Cox
- 18 - Andrea Spahr
- 24 - Damien Rodriguez & Greg Hula
- 25 - Worship at St. Luke's
- Jan. 1 - Donna Adrian

Did we miss your birthday?
Please contact the church office and let us know!

December Ushers

- Ron Adrian
- Malachi Black
- Andrew Edwards

Ushers & Greeters



December Greeters

- 4 - Ron and Donna Adrian
- 11 - Sarah Emery and Mary Laaker
- 18 - Greg Hula and Bobby Stechenfinger
- 24 - Larry Foreman and Andrew Edwards
- 25 - Worship at St. Luke's Lutheran
- Jan. 1 - Loren and Marsha Moyer



Responsibility List

Altar Flowers



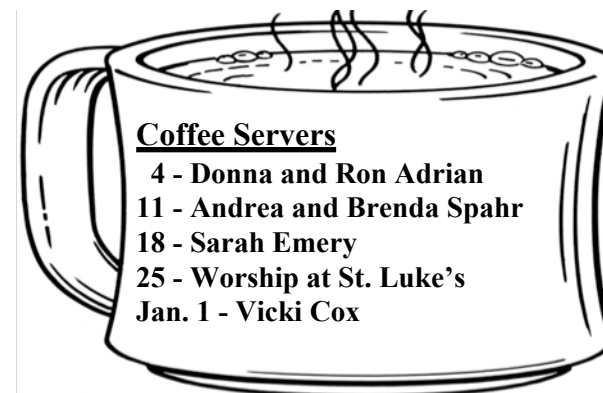
- 4 - LaVonne Moss in loving memory of the Moss Wedding Anniversary.
- 11 - Andrew, Christi, Clay Edwards and Tracy Petrini in loving memory of their parents, Charlotte and Albion Edwards.
- 18 - Margie Sutej in honor of family.
- 25 - Worship at St. Luke's Lutheran Church.
- Jan. 1 - Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer and Charlotte and Ed Palczynski in loving memory of Kirk Petersen.

Flower Pick-Up for December:
Greg and Janet Hula



Backpack Program

- 4 - Margie Sutej in honor of her grandchildren.
- 11 - Vicki Cox in celebration of her grandson, Shea's birthday.
- 18 - LaVonne Moss in loving memory of her husband, Bob.
- 25 - Jerry and Marilyn Van Ormer in celebration of their grandchildren, Jill and Justin's birthdays and in honor of their great-granddaughter, Jolene's birth.
- Jan. 1 - Brenda Spahr, God's Blessings in 2017.



Coffee Servers

- 4 - Donna and Ron Adrian
- 11 - Andrea and Brenda Spahr
- 18 - Sarah Emery
- 25 - Worship at St. Luke's
- Jan. 1 - Vicki Cox





What a journey 2016 has been! There have been plenty of ups and downs, successes and failures, and strides made thus far. As we celebrate the season of Thanksgiving, what are you most thankful for this year? As we consider the vast and many things God has done this year, we also prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. This culmination of seeing the hand of God active in the world and the entrance of Jesus into the world as the model for solidarity with human suffering and salvation from sin is the ultimate image of the phrase "God with us".

Thanks understood as deep appreciation displayed through action leads to the following question: Can how much we say we are thankful to God be evident in what we do in our lives? To be joyful, have a song of praise on our hearts and lips, and even doing good things for one another can still fall short of what we deeply desire to express as thanks to God. Perhaps it is not for us to keep a running tab of all the "successes and failures" in our efforts, but to waking up each day with living a value added life centered in God that should be our focus. Success isn't merely the abstaining from sinful acts.

Remember the things you are grateful for this year. Consider the struggles and hardship you have overcome and are currently engaging. Can you see God actively working in the midst of your situation? Is God only visible when things are going your way, or does your faith help you transcend just what's in front of you? Some of the upcoming projects we will be doing will focus on the gratitude we have for those working hard in our community to foster positive change and ensuring a brighter future. Be blessed and be a blessing to others this holiday season.

Malachi Black
Community Outreach Associate
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(940)414-3362



**Detectors
Save
Lives**

Protect Your Family with a
Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detector

The Detector and Installation is Free

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at 402-444-3560 for the
Free Detector and Installation



Sleep better at night with the peace and knowledge that your family is protected with early detection in case of a dangerous situation!

Detectors supplied by the First Responders Critical Support Foundation.



Reading Your Bible in a Year

Each month during 2016 the Grace Messenger has shared the reading schedule to accomplish the task of reading your entire Bible in one calendar year. If you were unable to read each month or would like to have that opportunity to dig into the word and continue your relationship with God, please feel free to contact the church office, 402-341-7730. Copies will be made available upon requests!

Brighten Your Corner

Brighten your corner with Gratitude; it is the candle of contentment.
Brighten your corner with Kindness; it is the flame of friendship.
Brighten your corner with Cheerfulness; it is the light of good will.
Brighten your corner with Joy; it is the window to health.
Brighten your corner with Humor; it is the sunshine of the soul.
Brighten your corner with Faith; it is the door to discovery.
Brighten your corner with Generosity; it is the portrait of character.
Brighten your corner with Enthusiasm; it is the torch of achievement.
Brighten your corner with Work; it is the lantern of success.
Brighten your corner with Patience; it is the reflection of maturity.
Brighten your corner with Love; it is the power of Brotherhood.
Brighten your corner with Prayer; it is the lamp of understanding.

—William Arthur Ward, via Apple Seeds
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Buy Your 2017 God's Creation Calendar!

The Calendars Are Here! Calendars are open for everyone, if you would like to purchase a copy, please look for Donna or Brenda on Sunday mornings or call the church office at 402-341-7730.



Calendars include beautiful monthly scenic photography enhanced with inspiring Scriptures from the Holy Bible. High-quality, heavy-weight stock with gloss coated photo pages and ample space to write appointments and family events.

Same Great Price ~ Only \$5.00



Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church year round.

Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis.

Get started today! Ask for an authorization form in the church office.

Donations

Like to make a donation to Grace but all you have is your credit or debit card? You can now with our iPad and Square reader. The Square reader is a hand held device that has the mobile capacity to swipe your card. Ask an usher to provide this unique experience for you.



Grace Lutheran Church
ESL (English as a Second Language) Classes
Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
402-341-7730



Do you know anyone searching for the opportunity to learn the English language? Please direct them here at Grace. Every Saturday morning they would be greeted with a smile and very helpful tutors to start their education in one of the most difficult languages to learn as a second language.



Grace's Free Little Library is now on display in the front island of the parking lot! Stop on by and browse for an interesting book! If you have any books for all ages you would like to contribute to the outdoor library or have any questions regarding this new adventure, please speak with Malachi. Let's help spread the joy of imagination through reading a good book!

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

"Let the children have their night of fun and laughter, let the gifts of Father Christmas delight their play. Let us grown-ups share to the full in their unstinted pleasures before we turn again to the stern tasks and formidable years that lie before us, resolved by our sacrifice and daring these same children shall not be robbed of their inheritance or denied their right to live in a free and decent world. And so, in God's mercy, a happy Christmas to you all."

Winston Churchill (1941) in a Christmas Eve speech during the darkest days of World War II
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Give the Gift of Green

... and we're not talking cash! This holiday season, consider giving gift to friends, family and co-workers that will last the whole year through... plants!

Among your many options:

House plants with particular air-purifying qualities, like pathos, philodendron and spider plants.

Miniature azaleas, rose bushes, hibiscus, Christmas cactus or holly.

A set of seed packets for the vegetable or flower garden.

A gift certificate for plants or seeds from a gardening supply catalog or shop.

Landscape plants native to your region of the country.

A basketful of tulip, daffodil and crocus bulbs.

Go live!

Why not consider planting a living tree for the holidays?



Choose a healthy tree whose roots are balled and wrapped in burlap.

Keep the tree outside until you're ready to bring it in for decoration.

Make sure the tree remains well-watered.

Keep the tree inside for no more than a week.

Transplant the tree into a hole prepared before the ground froze.

Plant the tree with plenty of organic matter; mulch and water well.

Remember: If you opt for the traditional tree instead of a live one, make sure to recycle it when the holiday is over.

Put the tree in a corner of your backyard, where it can become habitat for squirrels, birds, and other local wildlife.

Trim off the branches and use them for mulch under acid-loving bushes and shrubs.

Participate in local tree recycling programs.

Chop the tree trunk into pieces that can be converted into firewood.

Other festive tips to save some green:

Recycle last year's cards into this year's gift tags. Use serrated scissors to cut the front of the card into appealing shapes and sizes.

Make sure this year's cards are made from recycled paper.

Put E-mail to work and send paper-free electronic greeting cards.

Avoid wrapping paper. Use newspaper or brown craft paper that you can decorate yourself. Sunday comics also make a colorful, recyclable wrap kids will love!

green tips from earthshare.org

Reading Your Bible in a Year - December 2016

1	Gal 5:1-15	Lam 5	Psalm 147
2	Gal 5:16-26	Ezekiel 1	Psalm 148
3	Gal 6	Ezk 2-3	Psalm 149
4	Ephesians 1	Ezk 4-5	Psalm 150
5	Eph 2	Ezk 6-7	Isaiah 40
6	Eph 3	Ezk 8-9	Isaiah 41
7	Eph 4:1-16	Ezk 10-11	Isaiah 42
8	Eph 4:17-32	Ezk 12-13	Isaiah 43
9	Eph 5:1-20	Ezk 14-15	Isaiah 44
10	Eph 5:21-33	Ezk 16	Isaiah 45
11	Eph 6	Ezk 17	Isaiah 46
12	Phil 1:1-11	Ezk 18	Isaiah 47
13	Phil 1:12-30	Ezk 19	Isaiah 48
14	Phil 2:1-11	Ezk 20	Isaiah 49
15	Phil 2:12-30	Ezk 21-22	Isaiah 50
16	Phil 3	Ezk 23	Isaiah 51
17	Phil 4	Ezk 24	Isaiah 52
18	Colossians 1:1-23	Ezk 25-26	Isaiah 53
19	Col 1:24-2:19	Ezk 27-28	Isaiah 54
20	Col 2:20-3:17	Ezk 29-30	Isaiah 55
21	Col 3:18-4:18	Ezk 31-32	Isaiah 56
22	Luke 1:1-25	Ezk 33	Isaiah 57
23	Luke 1:26-56	Ezk 34	Isaiah 58
24	Luke 1:57-80	Ezk 35-36	Isaiah 59
25	Luke 2:1-20	Ezk 37	Isaiah 60
26	Luke 2:21-52	Ezk 38-39	Isaiah 61
27	Luke 3:1-20	Ezk 40-41	Isaiah 62
28	Luke 3:21-38	Ezk 42-43	Isaiah 63
29	Luke 4:1-30	Ezk 44-45	Isaiah 64
30	Luke 4:31-44	Ezk 46-47	Isaiah 65
31	Luke 5:1-26	Ezk 48	Isaiah 66

The Shepherds' Song
TUNE: Jingle Bells

*Dashing through the fields,
On the way to Bethle'm town,
Trying to find the king,
looking all around.
Found him in a cave,
wrapped in swaddling clothes,
Lying in a feed box,
yet still his glory shows.
Oh, Ring the bells, Ring the bells,
Ring them loud and clear.
Let the countryside announce
the baby king is here.
Ring the bells, Ring the bells,
Make a holy noise,
So all of God's creation
Can sing and shout Rejoice!*

*by Rev. Paul Lintern
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Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 255

Matt.11:4-17

B	J	P	E	G	R	I	D	E	P	L	A	Y	E	D
M	E	R	J	R	D	A	E	H	A	N	E	M	O	W
O	S	O	O	E	G	N	I	L	L	I	W	P	L	E
D	U	P	H	A	J	I	L	E	A	D	B	N	T	S
G	S	H	N	T	R	E	P	D	W	A	E	H	T	W
N	R	E	C	E	I	V	E	O	P	R	G	R	R	
I	L	T	O	R	S	L	R	T	D	I	O	I	A	M
K	P	U	O	K	E	C	I	L	S	P	T	I	O	R
G	B	R	F	A	N	S	I	S	E	T	S	U	T	D
D	N	L	E	E	T	H	E	R	E	E	R	T	R	H
C	E	I	E	P	C	C	O	N	D	N	S	A	E	E
U	C	Y	L	S	A	R	C	L	O	T	H	E	S	A
R	N	V	A	L	S	R	O	T	R	U	T	H	E	V
E	A	E	A	W	A	E	E	F	L	U	T	E	D	E
D	D	P	M	E	S	C	D	E	S	S	E	R	D	N

John the Baptist

AHEAD BAPTIST
CROWD BLESSED
CURED CALLING
DANCE CHILDREN
DESERT CLOTHES
DIRGE DRESSED
ELIJAH FORCEFUL
FLUTE GREATER
JESUS HEAVEN
JOHN KINGDOM
MOURN PALACES
PLAYED PREPARE
RAISED PROPHET
REPORT RECEIVE
RISEN REPLIED
SIGHT SWAYED
SPEAK WILLING
TRUTH WOMEN
WRITTEN

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

MORE PUZZLES AT:
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God's kids say & do the funniest things

A little boy was telling Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft of Dover, DE, what he got for Christmas. The boy said he separated his gifts into two piles - a "good gifts" pile (stuff he liked) and a "bad gifts" pile (stuff he didn't like.) He said he gave "the bad gifts to my dad. He likes anything."

A child from Oregon, OH, told a department store Santa:
"This year for Christmas I want an Xbox and iPod. But most of all I want my Mom and Dad to stop fighting and get along."

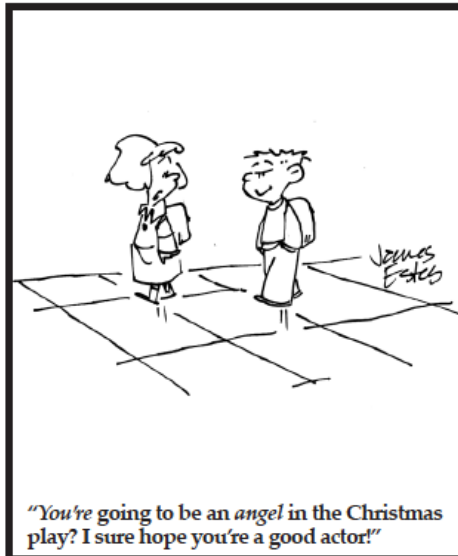
-The Cleveland Plain Dealer

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"Grandpa, tell us about the old days before video games and fantasy sports-when kids did stuff live."

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"You're going to be an angel in the Christmas play? I sure hope you're a good actor!"

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