



GOD IN FLESH MADE MANIFEST

In the triple-season of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany, the Christian church celebrates not only the birth of Jesus in a particular time and place, but also the wondrous mystery of the incarnation. What is the “incarnation”? The *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* defines it this way:

The Christian doctrine of the Incarnation affirms that the eternal Son of God took human flesh from His human mother and that the historical Christ is at once fully God and fully man. It is opposed to all theories of a mere theophany or transitory appearance of God in human form, frequently met with in other religions. By contrast, it asserts an abiding union in the Person of Christ of Godhead and Manhood without the integrity or permanence of either being impaired. It also assigns the beginnings of this union to a definite and known date in human history.

The Lutherans in the sixteenth century had no intent of confessing or teaching anything different. The *Augsburg Confession* Article III states:

Our churches teach that the Word, that is, the Son of God (John 1:14), assumed the human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. So there are two natures—the divine and human—inseparably joined in one person. There is one Christ, true God and true man, who as born of the Virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried. He did this to reconcile the Father to us and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of mankind (John 1:29).

The doctrine of the incarnation became controversial among Protestants in the sixteenth century. Lutherans affirmed the traditional position of the ancient and early church, while the Reformed (also known as “Sacramentarians”) developed a somewhat different doctrine, related to their beliefs about the Lord’s Supper. The *Formula of Concord* states:

In opposition to the Sacramentarians, Dr. Luther maintained the true, essential presence of Christ’s body and blood in the Supper with solid arguments from the words of institution. The objection was raised against him by the Zwinglians that, if Christ’s body were present at the same time in heaven and on earth in the Holy Supper, it could be no real, true human body. For such majesty was said to be peculiar to God alone. They said Christ’s body was not capable of it. Dr. Luther contradicted and effectively refuted this, as his doctrinal and polemical writings about the Holy Supper show. (*Formula of Concord* SD VIII, 1-3).

After Luther's death, in 1549 the Swiss theologians Bullinger and Calvin, representing Zurich and Geneva, adopted the *Consensus Tigurinus* which made the Zwinglian view of the incarnation the official doctrine of all the Reformed churches. After Luther's death, there were theologians and pastors in the Lutheran churches that were tempted to adopt the Zwinglian view of incarnation and the Lord's Supper, and this led to great controversy. Those who followed Luther's position called those in the Lutheran churches who were inclined to accept or tolerate the Reformed view "crypto-Calvinists" (i.e., hidden Calvinists). The controversies raged for twenty years. The Lutheran theologians finally met together in the early 1570s and adopted the *Formula of Concord*, and the subsequent *Book of Concord*, in order to settle the Lutheran position on these matters. Article VII of the *Formula of Concord* deals with the Lord's Supper, while Article VIII deals with the incarnation.

The German and Latin editions of the *Book of Concord*, as well as some of the editions published in North America, included an Appendix called the "Catalog of Testimonies." The sub-title of that document reads:

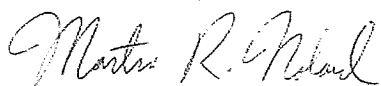
From Scripture and the orthodox ancient church that show what Scripture and the early church taught about the person of Christ and the Divine Majesty of His human nature, who is exalted to God's omnipotent right hand. They also show what forms of speech are used by Scripture and the orthodox early church.

The "Catalog of Testimonies" is a list of quotes from the early church theologians and councils that demonstrate that the Lutheran view of the incarnation is identical with the Scriptures and the early church. Quotes are from: Scripture, the council of Ephesus (431), the council of Chalcedon (451), Justin Martyr, Origen, Leo the Great, Eusebius of Caesarea, Athanasius, Epiphanius, Cyril of Alexandria, Theodoret, John of Damascus, Ambrose, Chrysostom, Theophylact, Oecumenius, Vigilius, Eustachius, Hilary, Eusebius of Emissa, Gregory of Nyssa, Basil the Great, Nicephorus, and Augustine.

This "Catalog of Testimonies" does not mean that the Lutheran church draws its doctrine of incarnation from these early church fathers. What it does demonstrate is that the Lutheran view of Jesus' incarnation is the same as the early church. The early church's and Lutheran view of the incarnation explains why we believe that it is *possible* for Christ's body and blood to be in the Lord's Supper. Jesus' Words of Institution are the *reason* that we believe that His body and blood are actually present in, with, and under the bread and wine and are distributed and given for communicants to eat and drink.

Lutherans who follow the *Book of Concord* can thus claim that they are closer to the theology and practice of the early church, especially of Ambrose and Augustine, than any other church today. This was the claim of Luther, Melancthon, and their immediate students like Martin Chemnitz, and it is still the claim of Lutheran churches like the Missouri Synod, Wisconsin Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and our sister churches around the world.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Martin R. Noland



Lutheran Women's Missionary League




Grace LWML Mission Statement

“Our mission is to encourage the women of Grace to grow spiritually through Word and Sacraments that they may serve our Triune God with their time, talents and treasures.”

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**Serve the Lord with Gladness”**

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<p>2018-2020 2020 - 12:00 Noon</p> <p>Mission Grants</p> <p>14. LCMS Missionary Expenses</p> <p>Mission Central (RSO)</p> <p>\$10,000 pages</p>  <p>Save your mites</p>

Mission Project Day - Quilting

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 & January 28,

at Grace Church Library

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Upcoming dates:

December 8, 2019 – Grace LWML Christmas Luncheon – See next two

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“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”
 Luke 2:11

GLC LWML Christmas Luncheon



Sunday, December 8, 2019
 12:00 Noon – Parish Hall



Everyone Welcome! Men, Women, Children
 Grace Members Grace School Families - Friends

Potato Bar with all the fixings
 Bring a salad or dessert (beverages provided)



Monetary Love gift for our tree: For Kenyan Ladies Sewing Group (more info to follow)
 (Make checks payable to GLC LWML)

Program: Singing Christmas Carols



GLC LWML Christmas Luncheon

Monetary Love Gift for our tree:

Kenyan Ladies Sewing Group

Jan Froh started this group and is working with the ladies since she and Pastor Froh have been in Kenya. The ladies need sewing aids like scissors, tape measures, zippers, buttons, oil for sewing machines and material. Our love offering will be sent to Jan to purchase items for the ladies. They sew paraments for their churches and other items.

CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS AT STRASBOURG

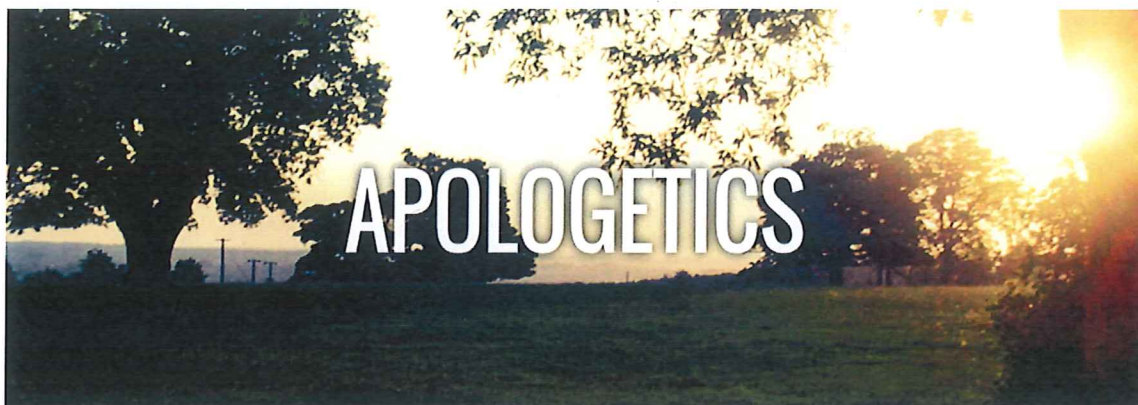
Our elder and long-time member, Dan Hahn, will be giving a presentation in two sections on **Sundays, Dec. 1st and 15th**, about his trip to, and the substance of, a conference in Strasbourg, France. His presentation will be held in the church library, from **10:30-11:30 AM**, instead of the regularly scheduled Adult Bible Class on those dates. Dan attended the “*International Academy of Apologetics, Evangelism, and Human Rights*” in July 2019, which featured the speakers Dr. John Warwick Montgomery and Atty. Craig Parton, both members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Dan’s presentation will be: 1st session (Dec. 1st), a) the Academy; b) Dan’s trip; c) Strasbourg and the Reformation; 2nd session (Dec. 15th), Introduction to Apologetics.

For more information, point your browser to:

<https://www.apologeticsacademy.eu/index.php>;

For pictures of the 2019 conference, go to:

<https://www.apologeticsacademy.eu/gallery.php>.



School News

DECEMBER 2019- DATES TO REMEMBER

3	JK-8 Open House (6-8pm)
8	Partners in Worship-Choir Sings (12:00pm) GLC LWML Christmas Luncheon (12pm)
11	JK-8 Advent Service (8:40am & 7pm)
20	Early Dismissal (12:30pm)
23-31	Christmas Break

Great things are happening at
GLS Grace Lutheran School
A Junior Kindergarten – 8th Grade Christian School since 1958



www.gracelutheransanmateo.org

2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA 345-9082

Grace Lutheran School is a Hidden Gem of Peninsula Private Schools

Intimate, vibrant and diverse, Grace is a special place to send your child.

Our Full-day Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten Programs prepare students for elementary school and results in earlier development of reading, social and learning skills.

Our State-of-the-Art Computer Center and Robotics Program prepares students for our high-tech world, and our Spanish Language Program builds minds.

Small Class Size is Important at Grace. All students receive the attention they deserve, no matter their educational level.

Grace Lutheran School Graduates excel in top public and private high schools and many enroll in top colleges.

Student who transfer to Grace at any grade level, find it to be a place to improve and excel.

 Grace Lutheran Church & School



Grace Lutheran Church & School

School News

JANUARY 2020- DATES TO REMEMBER

1-3	Christmas Break
6	School Resumes
7	PTL Meeting (6:30p.m.)
12	Partners in Worship Choir Sings (8:40p.m.)
14	JK/K Information Night (6-8p.m.)
20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)
27-2	Lutheran Schools Week

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 Grace Lutheran Church & School



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ADVENT + CHRISTMAS + EPIPHANY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES 2019-2020

Mid-week Advent Services – Wednesday, December 4
Evening Prayer – 7:00 p.m.

Second Sunday in Advent – December 8
Divine Service – 9:00 a.m.

Mid-week Advent Services – Wednesday, December 11
Jr. Kindergarten – Eighth grade will confess their faith through song.
Matins – 8:40 a.m.
Evening Prayer – 7:00 p.m.

Third Sunday in Advent – December 15
Divine Service – 9:00 a.m.

Mid-week Advent Services – Wednesday, December 18
Evening Prayer – 7:00 p.m.

Fourth Sunday in Advent – December 22
Divine Service – 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24
Lessons and Carols – 7:00 p.m.

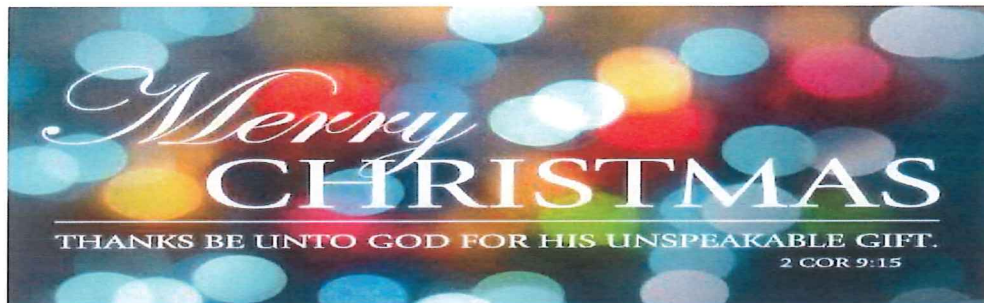
Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25
Divine Services - 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas-December 29
Divine Service – 9:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve-Tuesday, December 31
Evening Prayer - 7:00 p.m.

Epiphany-Monday, January 6, 2020
Evening Prayer – 7:00 p.m.

- ❖ Regular worship services are held each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- ❖ Mid-week Chapel & Kids of the Kingdom are held Wednesdays at 8:35 a.m. throughout the school year.
All are welcome to attend.



December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study		9:00a-Adult Bible Class 10:30a-Ann. Cmte. 6:00p-Jk-8 Open House	7:00p-Advent Service	11:00a-Organ Practice 2-3p-Library		9:00a-Senior Choir 3:00p-LWML Luncheon Setup
8:40a-Partner's in Worship-choir Sings 9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study 11:30a-LWML Christmas Luncheon		9:00a-Adult Bible Class 10:15a-School Board 10:30a-Ann. Cmte.	8:40a & 7:00p-Jk-8 Advent Service	11:00a-Organ Practice 2-3p-Library		9:00a-Senior Choir
9:00a-Divine Service		9:00a-Adult Bible Class				9:00a-Senior Choir
10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study	5:00p-Elders' Meeting 7:00p-Planning Council	10:30a-Ann. Cmte.	7:00p-Advent Service	11:00a-Organ Practice 2-3p-Library		
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:20a-Adult Bible Study	Christmas Vacation Begins	9:00a-Adult Bible Class 10:30a-Ann. Cmte. Tech Know How 7:00p-Lessons & Carols	10:00a-Divine Service	11:00a-Organ Practice Tech Know How	Tech Know How	9:00a-Senior Choir
	Tech Know How	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Christmas Break	Christmas Break	
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study	Tech Know How	9:00a-Adult Bible Class 10:30a-Ann. Cmte. Tech Know How 7:00p-Vespers New Year's Eve				

December 2019 Vital Statistics

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Yuzo Ishikawa	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Rebecca Young Pastor Noland	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Alexis McEnroe	20	21 Heide Noland
	Hans Tuft	Diana Vasilescu			Bill Bethke	
22	23	24	25	26	27 Mike-Tammy Bannister	28 Bill-Sue Bethke
	Detlef Siarkowski	Ellen Bordy Rufus Clapp				
29	30	31				
George Melke	Debra Rockmore					

January 2020 Vital Statistics

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Fred McKenna Angelique Gomez					Fred Brauer	John Kilcullen
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Daniel Saber			Larry Franquez		Trina Johnson	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Fred-Marilyn McKenna					Alissa Brauer	
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Prayer Page

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. ~Galatians 6:10

Egon Adam	Charlotte Custino	Donald Iocco	Heidi Noland	Brooke Toensing
Bella Archer	Robert Doody	Heather Iocco	Floyd Oatman	Ryan Toensing
Marilyn Baillie	Natalie Dubbel	John Iocco	Doug O'Donnell	Hans Tuft
Patricia Bailey	Bob Egan	Judy Iocco	Patty O'Donnell	Gina Tuft
Richard Bailey	Maria Eggert	Ko Ishikawa	Elizabeth O'Donnell	Mark Tuft
Rev. Frank Balgeman	Doris Emery	Mariko Ishikawa	Gil Ramirez	Sue Tuft
Valerie Balgeman	Bill Eng	Yuzo Ishikawa	Kathleen Ramirez	Martin Udisches
Chandler Balgeman	Sara Eppler	Lance Johnson	Fred Robinson	Leann Udisches
Mike Bannister	Carly Eppler	Doreen Johnson	Roberta Robinson	Christine Ullrich
Tami Bannister	Larry Franquez	Katarina Johnson	Akram Saber	Zachary Ullrich
Nathanael Bannister	Shelly Franquez	Bob Keim	Ghada Saber	Octavian Vasilescu
Mike Beebe	Nick Franquez	Dolores Keim	Daniel Saber	Diana Vasilescu
Jolene Beebe	Chad Franquez	John Kilcullen	Michael Saber	Flora Lisa Vasilescu
Kay Bell, III	Pam Frisella	Stefanie Kilcullen	Maria Schaefer	Joan Weckerle
Kay Bell, Jr.	Shirley Gangelhoff	Katie Kilcullen	Martin Semmler	Randy Wimmer
Nathanael Bell	Rev. Glennon Genthner	James Kilcullen	Michelle Semmler	Caden Young
Adele Bergstrom	Brooke Genthner	Michael Klculen	Scott Semmler	Rebecca Young
William Bethke	Alex Gomez	Barbara Kilpatrick	Daniel Semmler	Chandler Young
Susan Bethke	Anjanette Gomez	Bill Koester	Julia Semmler	Logan Young
Alice Boerschinger	Angelique Gomez	Faye Koester	Sandy Shanks	Rowan Young
John Bordy	James Graziano	Ryan Koester	Jessica Shanks	Eugene Zahnow
Ellen Bordy	Roger Guse	Amanda Koester	Detlef Siarkowski	Judy Zahnow
Judy Boyd	Dan Hahn	Glenn McEnroe	Hannelore Siarkowski	Mamie Zimbelman
Fred Brauer	Lori Hahn	Alison McEnroe	Ethan Smith	
Karla Brauer	Abby Hahn	Alexis McEnroe	Dave Smoot	
Jordyn Brauer	Arthur Hayame	Fred McKenna	Barb Smoot	
Justin Brauer	Barbara Hayame	Marilyn McKenna	Paul Soals	
Klayton Brauer	Tim Hayame	Steve McLaughlin	Stacey Soals	
Paul Brownlee	Darren Hayame	Heather McLaughlin	Jacquelin Soals	
Lois Brownlee	Joy Hayame	Sandra Means	Dimitry Spencer	
Marcus Brownlee	Hannah Hayame	George Melke	Tamaray Starling	
Scott Brownlee	Miriam Hitzeman	Molly Munson	Darryl Sterner	
Katherine Brownlee	Richard Hoffmeister	Caroline Nagy	Sandra Sterner	
Robert Crews	Theresa Mui	Pamela Nelson	Michelle Sterner	
Veronica Crews	Robert Innes	Rev. Martin Noland	Chris Strom	
Clara Crews	Shirley Innes	Karla Noland	Brett Toensing	
Celeste Crews	Michael Innes	Renee Noland	Anne-Marie Toensing	