



# Harbinger

www.graceevanston.org • churchoffice@graceevanston.org

January 2014

**Affirming,  
Courageous,  
Caring**

**Grace Lutheran  
Church of Evanston  
1430 South Blvd.  
at Wesley  
847.475.2211**

**Grace Is An Open  
And Affirming RIC  
Congregation**

## **OUR MISSION:**

To courageously live out our faith by sharing grace with each other and the communities we serve.

## **OUR VISION:**

All God's people will feel accepted, challenged, and cared for by Grace Church.

**Rev. Daniel Ruen  
Pastor**

pd@graceevanston.org

•

**Mark Bowman  
Music Director**

•

**The Rev. Kaari  
Reierson, The Rev. Jen  
Rude, and The Rev.  
Raquel Rodriguez,  
Colleagues in Ministry**

•

**Marie O'Brien  
Parish Administrator**

•

**Steve Brunger  
Sexton**

## **The Rigid and the Flexible**

by Pastor Daniel



In this photograph are the two skateboards we have in my house. The larger one is mine and the smaller one belongs to Isaac, my son. The reason I use the larger one is because I'm an 'elder' skateboarder. Mine is called a long board. It's for people who commute around town and/or don't want to go to the emergency room as often as younger skateboarders invariably do. It's steady, stable and rigid.

My son Isaac's board is a skateboard that came back into fashion in recent years. It's got big, soft wheels with a nimble turn radius. There's less board to stand on (it's a plastic board whereas mine is made of wood) but Isaac's has more speed and flexibility. When we go skateboarding together on the McCormick parkway you can see why each board is built the way it is: I'm cruising along at a steady pace while Isaac is weaving in and out, passing me by with ease.

What's up with the labored skateboard illustration, you ask? I hope it might help you visualize the seismic shift we've made in terms of our giving at Grace.

At the last budget meeting we decided to keep our annual dues to the wider church (\$14,000.00/yr) in the operating budget but outsource all other benevolences to the Courage Fund. Benevolences are now completely separate from our budget for 2014. We have no amount earmarked to raise and give away for the CF. On the other hand, we also have no limit

to how much we could raise or give away. It's independent of the operational budget. Unlike benevolences within the budget, the Courage Fund cannot be moved around to cover operating expenses.

In other words, the Courage Fund is a little like Isaac's skateboard. Since its inception in 2009, the CF

has been fast to respond to crises of many kinds, providing matching funds and direct support to countless people locally,

nationally and internationally. It is speedy and it is flexible. It is fun to drive and inspiring to ride. It has kicked this congregation's overall giving capacity into high gear.

The operating budget, on the other hand, is more like my long board. It is rigid and set for a steady cruise, concerned (as it should be) with facility upkeep, heat, lights and staffing costs. It has little room for maneuvering because the majority of those costs are already set.

Over the almost seven years I've been your pastor the benevolence portion of the budget was riding on the rear of our only skateboard at the time, the long board. When we couldn't pay the heat or our other bills or our payroll, the benevolences took a back seat. We often didn't pay our dues to the ELCA and other partners in ministry commitments until well into the next budgetary year—something which I know has been intensely frustrating for many of us.

Continued on next page

## **Images of Epiphany**





### Flexible, Cont.

The problem, as I've experienced it, was not our lack of desire to fulfill those commitments. It was that the rigidity and stability of the 'long board budget' prevented us from refreshing our giving commitments.

In the old budget our line item ministry partners did not change. Many new people joined Grace who had little or no knowledge or no connection to some of Grace's long-standing partners, such as Chicago Uptown Ministries, Interfaith Action or the Samaritan Counseling Center. The Courage Fund, however, highlights and responds not only to needs that emerge right in front of us, it also works with members who seek to connect our collective giving capacity with causes they believe match our mission and our vision.

The reason I think the finance team and the Council made such a bold move for the 2014 budget was because they saw an opportunity. We quickly forget how the Courage Fund succeeded beyond what most would have expected at the time it was born. An internal audit will be conducted after the first of the year, but even without it we feel confident in saying we raised \$65,000 in five years and have given away \$60,000.00. From the standpoint of where we were sitting back in the winter of 2009 (sometimes without enough money to get through the week), that's simply amazing. Through

our courage and our hope, by the nature of God's grace operating in our lives, we've created and maintained a speedy, inspirational and nimble giving vehicle.

With this opportunity comes a new set of challenges, however.

If we're going to make this system work, we'll need regular Courage Fund reporting, a higher degree of accountability, transparency and cooperation, as well as more information about ministry partners we've supported in the past and new people to work with in the future. To that end, the Council and finance team are working to secure and facilitate a more robust Courage Fund team, possibly with co-chairs to lead it. If you have ideas or would like to be involved, feel free to speak with me, Council Chair Les Inch, or Grace's treasurer, Russ Kohnken.

We're going to need both skateboards, sisters and brothers. That, and we're going to have to find out how to ride them well. There will be falls. There will be skinned knees and collisions. But I pray that, in learning how to ride side by side, we will not only meet our pledged needs to the ELCA and our operational budget—we will expand and grow our joy in giving and our capacity for greater courage.

Let's roll.

**The Peace and Joy of Christ, PD**

### Images of Epiphany





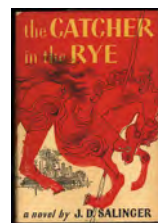


## PD and Clare on Teaching Staff at Holden Village in February

This February, Clare will be on teaching staff at Holden Village in Chelan, Washington for their annual Women's Retreat, *"Dancing the Trinity: Grace, Love, Communion."* Presenters will include Amy Boers, Tacoma, Wash., leading music sessions; Renee Splichal Larson and Taryn Montgomery, pastors from South Dakota and North Dakota respectively, providing Bible study, and Clare Tallon Ruen, dancer, teacher and mother from Evanston, IL. Pastor Daniel was also asked to come on teaching staff for Bible study on the days surrounding the Women's retreat. They will be gone from February 3rd through the 15th along with Zora and Isaac. PD and family will miss one Sunday at Grace, February 9th, which will be covered by Pastor Kaari Reiersen. Pastor Jen Rude will preach and PD will preside on Sunday, February 16th.



## GRACE NEWS & EVENTS



### Book Group

Our next book group will meet on January 26th at Marilyn Grinager Mason's home (1508 Hinman Ave, Evanston 60201, 847-491-0986). We will discuss *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger.

Then in March, we will discuss *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave.



## January Birthdays

1/01	Sue Graef
1/10	Jim O'Connor
1/16	Annabelle Johnson
1/17	Charlesetta Watson
01/19	Anne Laurence Janet Wright
1/20	Paul Bailey
1/23	Zinzi Steele
1/25	Judith Ericksen
1/26	Jack Sokol
1/28	Nell Yarnall
1/29	Zora Tallon Ruen
1/30	Juanie Daye
1/31	Scott Payton Sydell Reeves Jonah Wright



### Being on Council has its benefits...

Dorothy Nagelbach's Buche de Noel she brought to the Council's December dinner meeting.

# JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## January 5

**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Joe Flint  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... Janet Wright  
**Cantor** ..... Russ Kohnken  
**Acolyte** ..... Zinzi Steele  
**Ushers** ..... Sydell Reeves & Ann Stevens  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Anne Laurence, Dan Nehring  
**Altar Care** ..... Susan Graef, Nancy Schubert  
**Godly Play** ..... Nancy Stewart  
**Nursery Care** ..... Deb Mitchell  
**Flowers** ..... Dorothy Nagelbach

## January 12

**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Carolyn Utech  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... Scott Payton  
**Cantor** ..... Kelly Hackett  
**Acolyte** ..... David Thacker  
**Ushers** ..... Sydell Reeves & Ann Stevens  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Helen Yarbrough, Larry Yarbrough  
**Altar Care** ..... Helen Yarbrough, Sue McDaniels  
**Godly Play** ..... TBD  
**Nursery Care** ..... Nina Alvarez  
**Flowers** ..... Dorothy Nagelbach

## January 19

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Daniel  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Raquel Rodriguez  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Jarrod Gaither  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... Karla Daye  
**Cantor** ..... Lisa Kosnik  
**Acolyte** ..... Ava Daye  
**Ushers** ..... Larry Yarbrough & Jon Flaherty  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Vicki Mayne, Joe Mayne  
**Altar Care** ..... Helen Yarbrough, Sue McDaniels  
**Godly Play** ..... TBD  
**Nursery Care** ..... Nancy Schubert  
**Flowers** ..... Jan Blackburn

## January 26

**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Rachel Stark Inch  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... John Pedersen  
**Cantor** ..... Nate Johnson  
**Acolyte** ..... Cecilia Galicia  
**Ushers** ..... Larry Yarbrough & Jon Flaherty  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Sue Graef, Ron Graef  
**Altar Care** ..... TBD  
**Godly Play** ..... TBD  
**Nursery Care** ..... Ann Stevens  
**Flowers** ..... Jan Blackburn



**Children's Christmas Pageant 2013**





## Worship Notes

In most of the churches I know, the people who worship together rarely worship as a multi-cultural body of Christ. If they are homogeneous in ethnicity and language they obviously have an easier time worshipping in a similar way. If they can't do that, they have separate services: a traditional service, and then a contemporary service. Or, if they are more of a multicultural community they might host a Spanish-speaking service and then an English-speaking service. Different musical styles, aesthetic and ethnic sensibilities, foreign ways of moving around the worship space, and opposite flavors of worship can cause horrendous conflict within churches.

At Grace, we are attempting to live and worship as a truly multi-cultural body of Christ, reaching farther toward one of our three stated core values: Affirmation. We say in our mission statement that 'all people will be Affirmed, Cared for and Challenged by Grace Lutheran Church.'

Because of this value, we now facilitate three separate styles of communion at Grace—Traditional, Pilgrim and Table Communion. We rotate through these styles to affirm the diversity of our community. We likewise display a wider and wider variety of music as a singing and praising community. We may soon begin to experiment with using other languages in our service, as well as try out a narrative lectionary that is more accessible and story-focused.

This is not an easy dance to do, as many of you have experienced. But with every change, clearly and intentionally connected to God's call that we all might be 'one in the Lord,' we become more knowledgeable, more resilient and more affirming.

After the new call and response Eucharist setting and the 2013 Advent seasonal team's interactive Sunday experience, we will go to one of our well-known traditional settings for the season of Epiphany. We will return to our traditional style of communion and seek to provide a diversity of music. For Lent, we will use Table Communion with a modified setting and repeat the wonderful Passion Sunday rite that our music director Mark Bowman introduced us to last year. Easter will arrive on April 20th, and we will make yet another diverse change at that time.

I don't think you all realize how remarkable it is for a single church to display this kind of liturgical resiliency for strikingly different cultural expressions of our faith. You are to be commended for your openness and honesty in honing these expressions into rites we can all claim some part of, while accepting that there will always be something that feels uncomfortable and foreign to us.

There's an old saying, "If you don't like change, you'll like irrelevancy even less." However, I don't believe we are facilitating these worship changes for fear of being irrelevant. I believe we are instead expressing the diversity of who we are, drawn together by the grace and challenge of being followers of Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions or thoughts about worship, please contact me.

I will see you at the Welcome Table!

**Pastor Daniel**

## Images of Epiphany





## Children's Christmas Pageant 2013 - Best Pageant Ever

This is what Rina overheard from some of the other Grace members: "It was the best pageant ever! Because it honored so many of the cultures represented here, some people said they felt more included." Rina's sister Amy Brissette said, "It was so spiritual. I loved how it blended so many traditions."

From Karla Daye: Our children are blessed to be part of such an artistic, global and thoughtful experience. The lasting effects on their spirits are priceless.

And from Rina: I really don't know how Clare manages to herd nearly 30 kids into a pageant full of vibrant songs and choreography! It is a gift, and is the magic of Grace. The kids learned three songs in different languages!

*Following is the script of the children's pageant performed on Sunday, December 22, 2013, that included descriptions of traditions and songs from Grace families that gave this pageant an international flavor.*

### Christmas Pageant 2013, Grace Lutheran Church; Evanston, IL

*Luke 1-2, Matthew 2*

*Katie Hines-Shah, original drafter; Kaari Reiersen, editor*

#### Scene 1

(JACK) Traditions Narrator: This year, we are weaving traditions from our Grace family--around the world into the Christmas story. The hope and joy of the Christmas story gets translated in many different ways in many different cultures.

(ALICE) Narrator: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, Gabriel: Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.

(MADISON) Narrator: But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

(ABBY) Narrator: The angel said to her, Gabriel: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

(ABBY) Narrator: Mary said to the angel, Mary: How can this be, since I am a virgin

(ABBY) Narrator: The angel said to her, Gabriel: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. For nothing will be impossible with God."

(ABBY) Narrator: Then Mary said, Mary: Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word. Music: "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness, God" from the Blue Book.

(JACK) Tradition Narrator: The prayer that Mary gives in response to the annunciation, which are the words we have just sung, is a favorite prayer among many Nicaraguan farmers and is often carried as an amulet. Dur-



ing the years of the Somoza dictatorship, campesinos were required to carry proof of having voted for Somoza; this document was mockingly referred to as the Magnificat. While some emphasized Mary's obedience, liberation theologians drew inspiration from Mary's prayer, the promises that the hungry would be fed, the powerful made powerless, and the humble exalted.

#### Scene 2

(ALICE) Narrator: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus Caesar: All the world should be registered!

(MADISON) Narrator: This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius (kwi-rin'-i-us) was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph: We will go from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because I was descended from the house and family of David. (ABBY) Narrator: He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

(ZINZIE) Traditions Narrator: Originally from Spain, the tradition of Las Posadas is now most commonly practiced in Mexico, Guatemala, and the American Southwest. People playing the part of Mary and Joseph knock on doors and ask people for lodging. When they are finally welcomed, there is much rejoicing. The Christmas story requires hospitality to the stranger.

Music—Jesu, Jesu?



### Scene 3

(ALICE) Narrator: While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

(ZINZIE) Tradition Narrator: The Galicia family suggested we sing the song “Nanita, nana” to honor the Baby Jesus, and the tenderness that we show to our God who arrived to save us as a defenseless infant.

Music: “Nanita, nana”

(MADISON) Narrator: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, Angel: Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

(ALICE) Narrator: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Angel: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

(MADISON) Narrator: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, Shepherd: Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us!

(JACK) Tradition Narrator: Light is an important part of the Advent and Christmas seasons. Italians and Scandinavians celebrate Sankta Lucia (san'-ka loo-seeah'). Coptic Christians in Egypt gave candles and lamps as gifts to their families, neighbors, and friends, as well as to the poor. When families such as the Reiersons and the Spieses (shpees'-es) light candles we celebrate the joyful light that Christ's birth promises despite the darkness of winter. The Utechs light a candle for every day in Advent, until by the end, the light is overwhelming. Light angel chimes and sing: Kling Glockchen



### Scene 4

(ABBY) Narrator: So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

### Scene 5

(ALICE) Narrator: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, Wise Men: Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him

homage.

(MADISON) Narrator: They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

(ALICE) Narrator: Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

(MADISON) Narrator: They made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

(ZINZIE) Tradition Narrator: Nina Alvarez told us of the “Three Kings Day” tradition in Puerto Rico, celebrated by placing a box with grass or greenery under the bed. The grass is to feed the camels of the three kings, who arrive before dawn on Epiphany and bring a gift for the children.

Music (Three Kings Song)

(JACK) Tradition Narrator: Through our traditions we celebrate the hope... light... justice... and hospitality... we learn from the Christmas story. The light of Christmas comes when we need it the most, but the hope, justice, and hospitality last all year long. We end with a song sung in Creole, a language from Haiti, written by Gerald Daye. It is a song of gratitude and welcoming. “Dear Lord, You are my Heart, my Life, my Everything!”





## The Encarnación Rodríguez Family

My husband Joel and I were married in August, 2002 in Chicago and as a couple and now as a family have lived in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; the south side of Chicago; Palatine, and settled in Rogers Park in August, 2012 in our current home.

We have 3 boys together: Víctor Joel, 10 and our compassionate child who is always thinking of others and their needs and is in 4th grade. Víctor loves music, sports, dancing and the outdoors. Felipe José, 9 is our analytical son who loves studying/learning about animals, specifically dogs and their various breeds, creating new dance

moves and football; he is in 3rd grade. Rounding out the Encarnación Rodríguez brothers is Jonathan Luis, 6 who is our social butterfly and follows in his older brothers' footsteps in his love for music, sports and dancing; he is in 1st grade. All 3 boys attend Walt Disney Magnet School in Chicago.

I was born in Bayamón, Puerto Rico but in 1978 at the age of 3 I moved to Hyde Park where my mother taught school while my father pursued his PhD from The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and remained after graduating to found the Hispanic/Latino Ministry program. He continues as Augustana Heritage Chair of Global Mission and World Christianity and Director of Advanced Studies.

Joel was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and moved to Chicago December 25, 2003. He and his family are Catholic. As a family we try to expose the boys to both Catholicism and Lutheran traditions. Joel is a small business owner and entrepreneur of his own company called Prepaid Access Corporation; while I have worked as a teacher in Chicago, the northwest suburbs and Santo Domingo before becoming a school counselor with the Chicago Public Schools in March, 2003. I also have had my own small cosmetics and skin care business since October, 2009.

As a family we enjoy spending time together traveling, watching sports, listening to music, dancing, laughing and finding new adventures to explore together throughout Chicago and Evanston, including my marathon debut this past October. I wouldn't have been able to beat the pace car had it not been for Joel and the boys meeting me at various markers along the route! The marathon launched a desire in the boys to participate in their 1st race 2 weeks later in Evanston and our 1st race as a family in November.

Our family had been part of Mount Zion Lutheran Church in Oak Lawn, IL for 6 years when we lived on the south side of Chicago. My deeply seeded roots in the ELCA as not only a "pastor's kid" but also a "pastor's granddaughter and niece" had me seeking a church



home on the north side since our attendance at Mount Zion was becoming more and more inconsistent. The wakeup call was when I shared with my cousin Nina Alvarez that the boys were actually asking to go to church because they were missing it. Nina told me that she, Naia, Reggie, and my aunt and uncle were attending a wonderful church in Evanston. Not always believing my primita (little cousin) that a multicultural church with amazing music and a dynamic pastor could be just 2 miles from my new home, it wasn't until my Titi Raquel invited me to attend Grace saying "Taína, you are going

to LOVE this church! It is the most multicultural music filled, welcoming church I have attended, with a dynamic young pastor who has amazing sermons" -- and they were both right!

I am ever so grateful for all those in the Grace community who have welcomed my family with kind words, open arms and warm greetings on Sunday mornings! I am looking forward to learning how to continue to pray audaciously and learning the way to do God's will through God's grace, love and called servants like those I've met at Grace. I am excited about these precious gifts, memories and experiences still to come that will impact and form the lives of our family members while we contribute in any way we can to our new church family!

**Taina Rodriguez Encarnacion**







## Threads of Grace -

November and December brought the joy of giving to Threads of Grace. Many of the scarves and hats that were made by members and friends were blessed on November 24th during the worship service. In addition to the finely crafted items, there were waterproof, Thinsulate-lined gloves purchased with member donations to the Christmas Glove Tree and a Courage Fund grant. Special pricing was given by *Blain's Farm & Fleet*, so many more gloves could be purchased. In honor of Grace's 75th anniversary, Threads set a goal of giving 75 hats, 75 scarves, and 75 gloves. This goal was reached and surpassed.

Equally divided between both organizations were:

- 83 Scarves
- 94 hats
- 75+ gloves



Threads will continue working in 2014 and welcomes participants of all skill levels and suggestions for new projects. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, but knitting and crocheting happen whenever and wherever yarn happens. We live by the motto sent to us on lapel pins by out-of-town member Paula Wendland - "Keep Calm and Carry Yarn."



Colorful scarves and hats were delivered to the Evanston School Children's Clothing Association a day earlier on Nov. 23rd. The ESCAA volunteers were visibly delighted by these handmade gifts.



On December 4th, Gail Lamont, Nell Ferguson, Helen Yarbrough, and Ginny Ayers were joined by Pastor Daniel for the gift-tagging, sorting, and modeling of gloves for distribution to the Chicago Uptown Ministry and Evanston's Interfaith Action Hospitality Center. Both centers welcomed the delivery of these many gifts later that day





## Grace and St. Paul Tween Lock-In

The youth from Grace and St. Paul's had a great time at our first "Tween Lock-In", held on December 13th. The event started out at St. Paul's, where all fourteen youth (ranging from 4th through 6th grades) and five chaperones participated in icebreaker activities to get to know each other better. Energy was high, and it didn't take much effort from the adults to get the young people to interact! Once everyone was acquainted, we tore into the pizza that was delivered for dinner- just the ticket for providing fuel for play. When we finished dinner, we rounded up the troops for a few rounds of "hide-and-go-seek", which was played in the dark. You could hear the giggles and shrieks echo throughout the building, and multiple rounds of play were requested... luckily, in the end, despite some very good "hidiers", everyone was found. Next up was charades. We split everyone up into four groups and each group acted out favorite scenes from the Bible. We have some very talented performers from our groups- I was impressed by the creativity they displayed during the game!

Time flies when you're having fun, and the time had come for us to move the party over to Grace. Some youth had to leave at this point (it was getting a little too late for them) but we were pleased that most joined us for a candlelight service in Grace's sanctuary. PD played guitar and led us all in prayer and chanting. Each youth was encouraged to light a candle while taking their turn meditating. It was a beautiful moment, and illustrated our overarching theme of being "a light in the darkness".

When the service was concluded, Clare Ruen led the group through the advent story, using lessons from the Godly Play curriculum. The youth listened intently during the lesson and shared some meaningful insights and questions during the "I Wonder..." section of the activity. A big thank-you goes out to Clare for organizing and presenting such a meaningful lesson for the participants!

Some more of our friends had to leave after the devotion, but the remaining half-dozen or so youth were still raring to go. Some chose to sled down the hill outside Grace for a while, while others stayed warm and dry inside, making crafts. Eventually, everyone gathered inside the fellowship hall where we enjoyed popcorn and hot chocolate while watching a movie on the big screen.



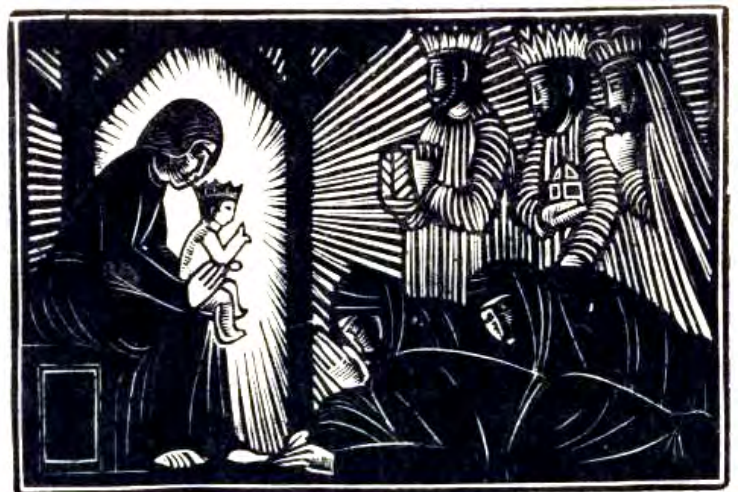
And though it seemed that everyone had spare energy to burn, we all settled down with little resistance shortly after midnight. A few quiet minutes in sleeping bags soon led to peaceful sleep.

The first tween lock-in was a success! We thank everyone who participated and contributed to the event, and we look forward to the next lock-in, which we're hoping to host in the early spring. If your tween was unable to attend this time, our returning participants look forward to showing them the ropes on the next go-round!





## Images of Epiphany





# January Calendar

**Every Sunday 10:45 Worship followed by coffee hour**  
**Sunday School During Worship**

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Jan 6-10 Grace Office Closed  
Jan 8 Threads of Grace  
Jan 19 IAHC Breakfast Grocery Collection  
Harbinger Deadline  
Jan 26 Book Group: The Catcher in the Rye



**Find us at [GraceEvanston.org](http://GraceEvanston.org)**



## Grace Church Council

**Les Inch, Chair,**

**Jon Flaherty, Martha Fry, Jarrod Gaither, Nathan Johnson,  
Dorothy Nagelbach, Holly O'Connor, Laura Wally**

# Grace

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