



# GRACE

*Viviendo por Gracia*

## Lutheran Church & School

**A Joyful Song for You**  
**December 23, 2018**

**Dear Church,**

*On that day they will say to Jerusalem, “Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.”*

*Zephaniah 3:16–17*

There are some songs that everyone knows. That’s especially true this time of year. I’ll prove it. Complete the following lyrics. “I’m dreaming of...” (pause) “...a White Christmas.” Here’s another: “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer, had a very...” (pause) Everyone knows it’s “shiny nose.” One of the reasons we all know these songs is that we love to sing them.

What if I told you that there is a song that God loves to sing?

Zephaniah told us that when God looks at mankind, he often sees us fearful. What is it that is making you afraid? Is it fears about your financial future? Are you frightened by the state of our world or country? What about death? Does the thought of dying scare you? Maybe what scares you is that you’re wrestling with some sin. You know that God sees that sin every time you commit it, and that thought scares you.

Zephaniah told us that when God comes to us in those scary times and he quiets our fears with his love, it makes him so happy, he himself bursts out in joyful song.

If you think Christmas makes you happy, my friends, think about how happy it made your God. Because when Christ came to earth, he took away everything we fear. You fear your financial future? In the future, you will live in Christ’s very own mansion. You fear for the state of our world? Christ is going to make a new heavens and a new earth. You fear death? Look into the empty tomb. You are going to be raised, just like Jesus. You fear your sin? Jesus paid it all. In your baptism, you were washed clean. When God looks at you, he sees the perfection and holiness of Christ. You have nothing to fear! Absolutely nothing.

That all is good news of great joy which the angels sang about on that first Christmas Eve. We hear that good news, and it quiets us...it calms our fears. We rejoice in Zephaniah’s promise: “The LORD your God is with you.” That is what Immanuel means, “God with us.”

We sing that this time of year too. “Oh come, oh Come, Emmanuel.” When God hears that song, when he sees that his grace has calmed our fearful hearts, he sings for joy too!

**Prayer:**

**Dearest Jesus, thank you for taking away our fears. Fill our hearts with the joy of our salvation, and we will sing your praises, now and forever. Amen.**

~ WELS.net

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Church Christmas Party** – On Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. During our regular coffee hour, Group 8 will be hosting a celebration of the season. They will set-up, do the coffee, provide hot cider and other goodies. We are also asking the congregation to bring a favorite snack item to share if they wish. Please remain so we can share with our Spanish members after their service. Thank you! Merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad!

**Dear Church** – You’re all invited to a New Year’s Eve Open House at Mike and Sandy Martins from 4pm-10pm. Please join us for games, charades, food, and a toast to ring in 2019! Children Welcome! For those of you who haven’t been to our home, we are in Terrace Heights at 602 North 39<sup>th</sup> Street. 509-833-7326.

**ESL classes** – Will begin again Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all the volunteers willing to give of their time and talents. ~ Pastor Z

### **Upcoming**

- Sunday, December 23, 11:30 am – Church Christmas Party!
- Monday, December 24, 7 pm – Christmas Eve Worship
- Tuesday, December 25, 9:30 am – Christmas Day Worship
- Sunday, December 30, 8:30 am – Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
- Monday, December 31 – Open House at Martins 4 pm – 10 pm.
- Wednesday, Jan. 2, 6 pm – Choir Practice and school resumes
- Monday, January 7 1:30 pm – Lydia Circle Meets
- Thursday, January 10 12 pm – Ladies Bible Study resumes

**Coffee Hour** – For questions call hospitality chair Connie Lehmann at 457-3974 or assistant hospitality chair Virginia Thorne at 388-5108

Group 8 hosts for Dec. 23: Martins, Bev Pfieffer, Connie Lehmann

Group 9 hosts for Dec. 30: Trudy Kelley, Ruth Wahlstrom, Sandi Wandler

Group 1 hosts for Jan. 6: Altenheins, Connie, Joan Riese

### Prayer and Praise!

**Marilyn Smith** – strength and health  
**Doris Sumner** – strength and health  
**Corae Temple** – healing and Strength  
**Mark Jankowski** – healing for cancer  
**Lennon Family** – comfort in mourning

**Karen Jankowski** – healing for back  
**Bill & Joy Altenhein** – strength and health  
**Wanda Lennon** – health and strength  
**Grace School** – blessings and safety  
**Donna Roth** – healing shoulder surgery

*And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*

*<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” Luke 2: 10-14*

### Our Homebound Members

**Carol Butler**  
**Ewald Ehlers**  
**Jack Lott**  
**Marlen Rieker**  
**Norm Campeau**

**Anne Rhine**  
**Dorothy Johnson**  
**Ed Peterson**  
**Esther Wachter**

There will be no Streams next week on Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>. Please submit to me any calendar items or events for the month of January. See you all Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>!

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