



Grace Bible Fellowship

DECEMBER 2025

Christmastide

You may be familiar with the Christmas song, “Twelve Days of Christmas.” I won’t share the full lyrics here, nor shall I be sending any of you pipers piping, golden rings, or French hens. Yet I will share a bit of the significance behind the song. First, however, I need to explain a little something about the Church liturgical calendar, for Advent is not the only liturgical season that the Christians have recognized throughout the years.

Perhaps the Church liturgical calendar is something with which you are also familiar, at least in part. The normal calendar we have on our phones or walls gives us twelve months and four seasons. The church calendar that we have hanging in the hallway tells us when we have our next PADS visit or the Christmas luncheon. Though different traditions vary, the Church liturgical calendar has seven primary seasons: Advent, Christmastide, Epiphany, Lent, Eastertide, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. The current season, as you likely know, is Advent.

“Advent” itself means the arrival of a specific person or time. We use it to remember the first arrival of Christ in his incarnation and to prepare for the second arrival of Christ in his second coming. Christmastide is a period of twelve days that runs from December 25 to January 5 (the day before Epiphany). The purpose of Christmastide is to rejoice that Christ had finally come. As one author puts it, “Advent is the season of *preparation*, and Christmas is the season of *celebration*.”

Continued...

December @ Grace...

December 14

Prayer @5pm

Elder/Deacon Meeting @ 6pm

December 24

Candlelight Service @ 6:30pm

December 28

No Sunday School

December 28

Mission’s Giving (Campos)

January @ Grace...

January 4

No Sunday School

January 11

Prayer @5pm

Elder/Deacon Meeting @ 6pm

January 19

Service at PADS @ 5:30pm

January 25

Mission’s Giving (Detwiler)

January 28

Annual Meeting @ 6:30pm

And there lies the significance of that repetitive Christmas song. As far as the strange gifts go, there are a number of theories regarding their origin. Perhaps they're symbols for biblical persons and themes or perhaps they're the cultural artifacts of holiday gifts and games gone by. The more important teaching here is that the twelve days of Christmas are truly the days of celebration that Christ has finally come after such a long time of waiting. I think of Simeon and Anna in Luke 2:25-38 who both blessed and gave thanks to God for their eyes had finally seen the salvation that God had prepared in the incarnation of Christ. I also think of the saints in Revelation 19:1-10 who sing "Hallelujah!" for the salvation that appears with Christ's second coming. What a glorious day of celebration that will be!

My recommendation to you is that you continue to celebrate Christmas through to January 5, the full twelve days of Christmas. Consider leaving up the Christmas decorations, enjoying those leftovers from Christmas dinner instead of tossing them out, continuing to give gifts and to serve others, singing Christmas songs with your family, and even wishing a "Merry Christmas" every once in a while. My prayer for you is that this liturgical season and your practice of spiritual disciplines give glory unto our Lord and form your hearts that you would rejoice in him and him alone.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Nathan

Praying for those who serve...

Leadership

Pastor – Nathan Miller

Elder – Eric Bjerkaas

Deacons – Jeff Schenck & Don Faux

Ministry Volunteers

Eric & Andi, Paul & Renée, John & Mary, Dan & Christine, Matt & Rebekah, Jason & Amanda, Jeff S., Adam & Jill, Don & Angie, Lori, Aaron, Yessie, Valerie, Patty, Kris, Kailee, Robena, Jake & Christiane, Jeff W., Caleb, Lydia, Marcos

Sunday School Teachers

Pastor Nathan: Adult

Yessie Yanez: 2nd-4th grade

Amanda Lafferty: Pre-K – 1st grade

Children's Sunday School

Yessie and Amanda will be teaching a four-week Advent series called "Prepare Him Room" starting November 30.

They will be teaching the same thing at different age levels. We will be building each week on the story line of Jesus 1st Advent (birth) and tying it into His 2nd Advent (His return).

November 30: Gabriel Visits Mary - Luke 1:25-38

Dec. 7: God Speaks to Joseph in a Dream – Matt. 1:18-25

Dec. 14: The Angels Visit the Shepherds - Luke 2:8-20

Dec. 21: Three(ish) Wise Men and a Star – Matt. 2:1-15

Praying for Our Family...

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people."

1 Timothy 2:1

- Pray for Pastor Nathan, Eric Bjerkaas, Jeff Schenck, and Don Faux as they continue in faithful leadership of the church.
- Pray for Pastor Nathan as he weekly prepares for the Sunday School class, preaching the Word, and shepherding the flock.
- Pray for Jason and Amanda as they discuss treatment options and make decisions for the metastasis of Jason's colorectal cancer. May the Lord be their strength, guide, comfort, and focus.
- Pray for Pastor, Yessie, and Amanda as they prepare and teach Sunday school each week.
- Pray that as we hear the Word preached, our hearts and lives would be changed. Pray that we would be desiring God's Word, growing in our love for one another, and seeking to serve the Lord well in our church and community.

Our Missionary Partners...

Sillas & Wanger Campos, Brazil

Karl & Glynn Peterson, South Africa, Mozambique

Destin & Jennifer Detwiler, To Every Tribe



December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div> PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS: MON. - THURS. 9-5 </div>	1	2 PASTOR - AT CGN	3	4	5	6
SUNDAY 7 SCHOOL @ 9 WORSHIP @ 10	8	9	10	11	12	13
SUNDAY 14 SCHOOL @ 9 WORSHIP @ 10 PRAYER @ 5PM BOARD MTG. @ 6	15	16	17	18	19	20
SUNDAY 21 SCHOOL @ 9 WORSHIP @ 10	22	23	24 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE @ 6:30PM	25 OFFICES CLOSED	26	27
28 WORSHIP @ 10 MISSION'S GIVING (CAMPOS)	29	30	31	1	2	3
PASTOR'S VACATION						

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2ND - MARCOS CASTRO-YANEZ

2ND - AUDREY MILLER

5TH - ADAM SPARKS

14TH - LEE MCCULLOUGH

17TH - CHRISTIANE CHERNY

19TH - GRAYSON DERAGON

24TH - NADIA CHERNY

26TH - KRIS WALLIN