

GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
& SCHOOL

October 21, 2009

Dear Parents and Children of Grace Lutheran Church,

The 4:15 and 6:00 p.m. worship services on Christmas Eve at Grace are led by the children of the church and the school. All children from kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to be a part of these traditional services.

The children, even the youngest ones, prepare carefully for this special night. Leading worship is an important responsibility, and we want each child to be able to meet this challenge in a positive way, at a level appropriate for him or her.

We hope you will read the enclosed information carefully. Then use the enclosed reply form to let us know about your child's participation in leading Christmas Eve worship.

Please ask if you have questions. Approximately 175 children are part of the Christmas Eve services each year at Grace. That's a lot of parents and children who need to know what's going on! We will do our best to keep you informed.

Your help and support make it possible for this Christmas tradition to continue at Grace. We pray that children's participation in these services helps them grow in faith and knowledge of God's love, shown to us in the birth of Jesus.

Christ's peace,



Michael D. Costello
Cantor

Kendall Grigg
Principal, Grace Lutheran School

Christmas Eve Worship 2009

December 24, 4:15 and 6:00 p.m.

Information for Sunday School children who do not attend Grace School

Children in the 3-and-4-year-old classroom

- Sunday School will continue its normal routine. Children begin participating in the Christmas Eve service in kindergarten.

Children in kindergarten through grade 4

- Sing for one service. Children rehearse during Sunday School on Sunday mornings in December. All children in grades 1-4 will participate in the rehearsals whether or not they will be present on Christmas Eve.
- Additional rehearsals at 8:30 a.m. on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 21 and 22. These rehearsals will end at approximately 9:45.
- Final rehearsal on Wednesday, Dec. 23, at 8:30 a.m. (4:15 service) OR 10:00 a.m. (6:00 service). These rehearsals will last approximately 75 minutes.
- Word sheets and a CD of the music for lower grades will be available at the reception desk starting Nov. 15. The word sheet can also be downloaded from the Grace web site beginning Nov. 15.

Questions about children in K-4?

Contact Ms. Janel Dennen (708-366-6900, ext. 268; jdennen@graceriverforest.org)

Children in grades 5-8

Choose the choir or the pageant. Eighth grade students may serve as lectors. Sunday School and Confirmation classes for grades 5-8 follow the normal routine during December.

5-8 Choir

- Sing at both services.
- Rehearse on Sunday evenings, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Nov. 15 through Dec. 20.
- Additional rehearsals on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 21 and 22, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
- Final rehearsals on Wednesday, Dec. 23, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Pageant

- Participate in one or both services.
- Meet with Ms. Kruse on Sunday mornings in December. (She'll find you.)
- Additional rehearsals at 8:30 a.m. on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 21 and 22.
- Final rehearsal on Dec. 23, at 8:30 a.m. (4:15 service) and/or 10:00 a.m. (6:00 service).

8th grade lectors (readers)

- Read at one or both services, as assigned.
- Rehearse with Ms. Gotsch, times to be arranged.
- Participate in rehearsals on Dec. 21-23.

Questions about children in grades 5-8?

Contact Ms. Gwen Gotsch (708-366-6900, ext. 122; ggotsch@graceriverforest.org)

Bulletin cover design

All children are invited to submit a design for the bulletin cover for Christmas Eve. Forms will be available at the Grace reception desk and on the web site.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 2009

Reply form for children who do not attend Grace School

Children in Kindergarten through Grade 4

Forms for lower grade children should be returned to the Grace reception desk by Sunday, December 6.

Name _____ Grade _____

*Choose one: 4:15 p.m. (last names M-Z) _____ or 6:00 p.m. (last names A-L) _____

Name _____ Grade _____

*Choose one: 4:15 p.m. (last names M-Z) _____ or 6:00 p.m. (last names A-L) _____

Does your child have any special needs that teachers should be aware of?

**Assigning children to a service time based on last names helps to keep the number of lower grade children in each service approximately equal. However, if the assigned service time does not work for your family, your child may participate in the other service instead.*

Children in Grades 5-8

Choir participants should bring this form to the first rehearsal on Sunday, November 15.

Pageant participants should return the form to the reception desk by Sunday, December 6.

Name _____ Grade _____

Choose choir or pageant Choir (both services) _____
Pageant 4:15 p.m. _____ and/or 6:00 p.m. _____

Name _____ Grade _____

Choose choir or pageant Choir (both services) _____
Pageant 4:15 p.m. _____ and/or 6:00 p.m. _____

Does your child have any special needs that teachers should be aware of?

Eighth grade only

My child is interested in being a lector at 4:15 p.m. _____ or 6:00 p.m. _____

Parent Signature

I understand that my child is expected to attend the appropriate rehearsals, including rehearsals with Grace School students on the mornings of December 21-23.

Signed _____

Phone _____ Email _____