

News of Grace

Monthly Newsletter ♦ December 2017

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

"We share God's love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world."



Kelly Pankey, Tom Brennan,
Bev Attwell, Caroline Weise,
Judy Kautz, Debbie

Anderson, Marilyn Whitscell, Erv
Simi, Elfie Jahnke, Lorraine
Leathead, Gloria Moore,

Harold & Jean Kissau, Jim Malaski, Karen &
Walter Spigelmyre, Dorothy Gentry, Emma
Nelson, Julie Troy, Scott Coddington, Bill
Farnum, Gary Rich, Mimi, Dick Sanders, Trapp
Truman, Kevin Salesman,
David Schaedig, Bishop
Craig Satterlee, Cody
Gustin, Eric Carlson,
Shirley Johnson, Mike
Knoblett, Dennis
Diamond, and Richard G.



December 30 ~ 5:00 p.m.
December 31 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Following Grace's pattern on the weekend after Christmas, we will have Lessons and Carols Services on Saturday, December 30, and Sunday, December 31. Join us as we hear the story and sing the songs of the season.

Christmas Eve



Candlelight Worship

December 24th
5:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Communion offered at
both services

No Saturday evening worship December 23
No Sunday morning worship December 24



Julefest Bake Sale
December 2
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sale items may be brought in on Friday, December 1 from 9 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. We appreciate all baked or homemade goods, canned items, and craft items donated. If possible, please package and price your items or we will do that for you, if you prefer.

Please invite your family and friends to this annual event sponsored by the women of Grace. Contact Darlene Freel at 354-8866 with any ideas and please let her know if you can help on Friday or Saturday. Thanks!

This event is sponsored by the women of Grace, but all members of the congregation are invited to donate items or help and shop on the day of the event.



As we approach "the holidays," there are all the many things to be done in preparation. Whether it is cleaning the house to make space for the family and guests coming, preparing the meals, getting the appropriately themed decorations out, first for Thanksgiving and then for Christmas, and of course all the buying. There really is a lot to do, and preparation is required.

We enter Advent as a time of preparation for the Christ event and on Christmas day God's care for us and great gift to us. In our yearly cycle of all things church, we need to prepare again to have our focus on Jesus and his life for us.

Some of the scriptural themes of this season may help us prepare for these weeks ahead. The scriptures of Advent reminds us of our need for God to save us and make us new again. We hear in the psalm a cry to come and save us.

Isaiah 40 proclaims, "Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain." That is a changing of the world, of creation, for a purpose. With that, we are urged to change our lives too for the coming purpose.

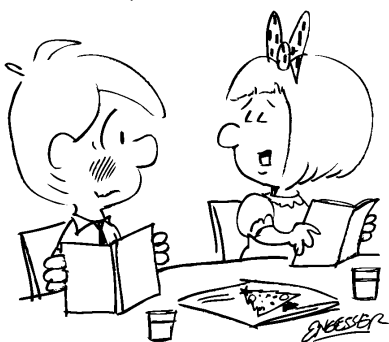
We hear promises of good news, even though we may walk in darkness, there is hope for rejoicing. Light is coming. John the Baptist was stuck in the wilderness, yet was able to point toward the light. We are in our own wildernesses of many types, yet we too can share the story of the one who brings light and renews the world for God's work.

We hear with Mary, God's promises to continue the reign of David. And with Mary, we may wonder how can this be. We can also, with Mary, prepare with confidence in God's coming future and now know that has begun already. We can as Luther says in the Small Catechism explanation of the Lord's Prayer, pray that it comes to us also.

With scriptures as our guides we can indeed prepare during this season of Advent, With traditions of the church, we can indeed pray that Christ be born in us.

A blessed Advent and then Christmas season to all.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



"Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse" is NOT a Bible verse!



Children's Christmas Program

December 17

During our 9:30am

Worship Service

Get to Know Our New Members

Bill and Nancy Platt

Occupation: **Bill:** Retired carpenter

Nancy: Retired Board Director for an electric cooperative

Hobbies/Interests: We both enjoy visiting with our grandchildren. **Bill** enjoys fishing, carpentry work, and helping others. **Nancy** enjoys reading, long walks and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with children.

What drew you to become a member at Grace: We were new to this area and looking for an ELCA Church to attend. When we came to our first worship service, we were warmly welcomed by everyone.

Pastor's sermons are informative concerning the truths related to us in Scripture.

Pastor always emphasizes God's free gift of grace. We are spiritually renewed and encouraged each week.

We knew then, as we know now, Grace is where we want to worship and became members.



June and Pat Daly

Occupation: **Jan:** Retired dental hygienist. **Pat:** Retired teacher.

Hobbies/Interests: **Jan:** Reading, cooking, travel, hiking, biking, dogs and family. **Pat:** Fly Fishing, reading, travel, hiking, biking, gardening and stained glass.

What drew you to become a member at Grace: **Jan:** Grace is a very welcoming church. The weekly message is thought provoking and spiritually centered. The church also feels very loving and non-judgmental, while being aware of social issues. **Pat:** Open-minded congregation, spiritually centered congregation and a thinking congregation.

Any other comments: We are fortunate to spend our winters in Tucson, summers in Michigan at Grand Lake. Our oldest daughter lives in Lewiston, Idaho with her 15 year old twins and husband.. We travel to Idaho at Christmas and they come to Michigan in the summer. Our youngest daughter lives in Beijing with her husband and they both teach in the International School. She taught in Beijing for two years before she married. They lived in India for eight years while they taught in Delhi and then London for two years. We have visited her in Beijing, Delhi, Thailand and Oman. She visits us in Michigan every summer.

Debbie Wcisel-Ellsworth

Occupation: Retired and now a full-time grandmother

Hobbies/Interests: My kids and grand kids. Reading. Knitting and crocheting. My dogs.

What drew you to become a member at Grace: I attended Grace years ago because my elderly neighbor was a member and asked me to drive her to church. I always felt welcome when I went with her. I like that it's a smaller church and everyone knows everyone.



Kelli Liske

Occupation: Office manager at Bannan Funeral Home. It is an honor to serve families after the loss of a loved one. I realized in high school that my purpose was to work in an office.

Hobbies/Interests: I love to travel, exploring new places and experiences. I feel God's presence while hiking in nature, especially the mountains. I like to read, Jodi Picoult is one of my favorite authors. She is talented at taking all sides of an issue and turning it into a story. I enjoy watching Supersoul Sunday on the OWN network. Oprah asks some of the greatest spiritual leaders about life's lessons.

What drew you to become a member at Grace? I was drawn to Grace because it is a Bible based church and stands on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Any other comments? I have been blessed by God's love and my two children; Shane and Tori. Acts of kindness inspire me.



Shane Paul Bullard

Occupation: Works at Greenway Recycling.

Hobbies/Interests: Listening to music, reading, watching "Myth Busters", watching sports; golf, baseball, football and hockey. Playing miniature golf. Watching HGTV. Puzzles, bowling, exercising on Gazelle and chairgym.

What drew you to become a member at Grace? Close to where I live. Walking distance.

Jerry and Jan Charter

Occupation: Jan: Retired attorney

Hobbies/Interests: Kayaking, swimming, bicycling, bird watching and music.

What drew you to become a member at Grace: Pastor Tom and the friendliness of the people.

Do you have new and different ideas to share - we are very willing to try new things: Jan: Sure would like to see the "resurrection" of Grace's bell choir. I would help with that, but I am about to leave Michigan for the winter.

Christmas Caroling December 10 following Appreciation Breakfast Potluck

Please join us in singing Christmas carols to some of Grace Lutheran's members, who may not be able to make it to church. All singing abilities and ages are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship. It is truly a heartwarming experience, which will put you in the holiday spirit. We will sing a few Christmas carols at each stop and will visit several locations.

We will leave from church at approximately noon, following the Appreciation Breakfast Potluck (to honor those who donated services to complete our new paved driveway), following the 9:30 a.m. service. We will car pool from the church. It usually takes several hours to get to everyone, so plan on an enjoyable afternoon!

We would also like to give a plate of cookies to the people, to whom we sing. If you are willing to donate a batch of homemade cookies, **please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex and indicate what kind of cookies you will bring.** Please have at church on the morning of 12/10/17.

Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex and indicate if you are willing to help with the driving (indicate how many additional people you can take besides the driver).

If you have any questions, please call Anna Lewis at 657-3324. See you all there!!!

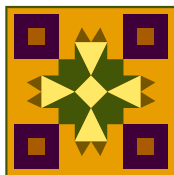


"HERE WE COME A-CAROLING!"



Quilting

Due to the Holidays the Quilting/Sewing group may not meet in December, but some members may be in the parish hall working anyway. Please phone the office after 9:00 a.m. and Peggy can tell you if anyone is there. This also applies to **Snow Days** during the winter.



We would like to thank everyone that helped make the card party fundraiser a success, whether it be with monetary donations, supplying card tables, working, attending the event, or any other form of support. It is very gratifying to know you support the mission effort of the group.

GRACE QUILTERS

Good Gifts Tree

This year we have put a Good Gifts Tree in the Narthex, on the table outside Peggy's office. The idea of the tree is to remind people there are others ways to give other than the purchase of a store bought item. Many people we know have plenty and are hard to buy for, the Good Gifts Tree offers options to honor the person and help with world hunger. The bulbs let you know what you can purchase and the amount. If you see something that strikes you, take the bulb/bulbs and go to the ELCA/ goodgifts link (on the back of the bulb) and place your order. The Good Gifts Catalog, located under the tree, has plenty of information regarding the gifts and the project. If you are not comfortable ordering on line, there is an order form in the catalog, you fill



that out, send your check/money order. The bulbs can be given to your recipient as acknowledgement of the gift. Please keep this in mind as a stocking stuffer or a small add-on gift. We encourage you to take a look and consider another option for gift giving.

Community Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 10 ~ 4:00 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 727 S. 2nd Ave.

Many people struggle with feelings of depression, loss, and sadness during the Christmas season because of the death of a loved one, a divorce, the loss of a job, a broken relationship, illness, a recent or upcoming move, or some other emotional trauma. The Blue Christmas service recognizes the burdens that people carry and reaches out to them with Scripture readings, music, prayers, and a message of hope that focuses on the comfort that God offers during the dark times of our lives by shining Christ's light into the broken places deep within us. This service offers a sacred place for those who are grieving losses or struggling with difficulties. Participants will be invited to light a candle in memory of someone or to mark a significant loss in their lives as well as write names or situations on pieces of paper that will be placed into a basket, prayed for, and then placed on the altar. Come experience the healing presence of God's love. Everyone is invited. For information call 356-1658.



Directory Information Update

Please send the church any new phone numbers, emails or addresses to update our records. We have tried to contact some people only to find they no longer had old phone lines, and were just using their cell phones which we didn't have. Or they were using a different email address. Thanks!

LARCC Advent Taize Service

LARCC and Pax Christi of Alpena will sponsor an Advent Prayer Service entitled: Emanuel Come Into Our Lives, on Thursday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church in Alpena. All are invited to attend.



Outreach and Mission

Local

Discipleship



Items Needed:

- * Tuna & Tuna Helper
- * Peanut Butter & Jelly
- * Pancake Mix & Syrup (Just add water kind)
- * Elbow Macaroni

The collection basket is located outside the church office. All items collected will be donated to Trinity Episcopal's food pantry.



Lutheran World Relief The current Lutheran World Relief collect is Baby Kits. Remember...Pack and Play is by the door and the list of needed items is on the bulletin board above the pack and play.

Noisy Offering continues the 4th weekend of the month for our World Vision sponsor child, Ishimwe. We will be sending her Christmas gift of money soon so that she receives it in time for Christmas. Last year, her family purchased 4 goats with the money...picture of that is on bulletin board in dining hall.



THE GIVING TREE

Just a reminder that Giving Tree gifts are due back here, wrapped with the tag visible by Sunday, Dec. 3rd. Thanks for helping make a child's Christmas brighter!!!



Pave the Driveway Update

Thanks to all who have contributed to the Driveway Fund. We have received \$ 11,155.75 so far this year. Along with in-kind contributions from Lancasters/L&S Concrete and Crittenden/Oak City Construction 35.7% of total is covered. There remains \$ 13,943.58 on the project. You can use the special envelopes or simply mark an amount on the regular envelope or pew envelope and note it for the Driveway Fund. A one time pledge or contributions over months will help. Join us on Sunday December 10th for a Thank You Brunch for Lancaster and Crittenden for their special gifts of nearly 1/3 of the project. The heating coils are expected to be connected and working in the next 2 weeks ready for winter. Thanks again to all who made possible a safer easier entrance to our church.





Altar Flowers

Reminder... If you would like to place flowers on the altar, **please sign the flower chart** located on the wall in the office narthex. **Please also**

complete an altar flower form (blank forms are located on the table by the flower chart) listing information to be printed in the bulletin. Cost for flowers is \$16 payable to Grace Lutheran Church.



Decorating the Church

All are welcome to join us on December 9th at 9:30 a.m. for a wonderful time of fellowship as we decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. Many hands will help make it fun and beautiful. We will be keeping the decorations up to enjoy through the first Sunday of Epiphany. Join us to pack them away on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at

Pictures of Events at Grace

If you have pictures of Grace events, etc. at Grace, please email them to Phran Ludington at captainphrantastic@yahoo.com. We will use these pictures on our website, our Facebook page and for the Community Celebrating and Sharing Dinner. Thanks!



GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Staff & Leadership Telephone Numbers

CHURCH OFFICE 354-2640
 Rev. Tom Orth..... Home 356-8729
 Cell..... 916-8759
 Office Manager Peggy Tomaszewski... 255-8850
 Music Director

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

President Tom Lappan..... 356-3718
 Vice-President Rick Engstrom..... 916-5963
 Exec. Secretary Sandy Malaski..... 356-6248
 Treasurer Don Barnard 340-1055

WORK GROUP LEADERS/COUNCIL

Education Elsa Phillips 884-1809
 Worship Sharon Engstrom..... 354-5133
 Discipleship..... Joelyn Rich 340-0592
 Property Jeff Welch 595-2195
 Fellowship Jeanne Pankey 354-2416
 Pat Schultz 356-2781
 Finance Dennis Werblow 354-5560

OTHER V.I.P.s

Stewardship..... Wayne Christopherson .. 356-0430
 Youth Director Vicki Denstaedt..... 916-9258
 WELCA Darleen Freel..... 354-8866
 Dorothy Hansen 354-3563
 Samaritas Kay Grove 727-2054
 Quilters Caroline Weise 354-8060
 Dorothy Hansen 354-3563
 LARCC Eleanor Coddington.. 354-8766

November 2017

Finances

GENERAL FUND \$ 14,749.00
 BUILDING FUND 1,352.67
 CHRISTIAN GROWTH 9.00
 OTHER..... 9,742.63
 TOTAL \$ 25,853.30

Attendance

SATURDAY WORSHIP (4) 122
 SUNDAY WORSHIP (4) 306
 TOTAL 428



Poinsettias

If you would like to place poinsettias in the church during our Christmas worship, please fill out this form and place it in the offering plate or turn it in to the church office. Each plant is \$9.00. Please specify below, the number of poinsettias you wish to order and your dedication. Enclose cash or check payable to Grace Lutheran Church.

ORDER DEADLINE.....DECEMBER 3, 2017

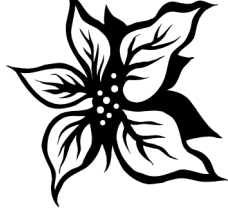
I would like _____ poinsettias at \$9.00 each

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

THANK YOU!



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ORDER DEADLINE.....DECEMBER 3, 2017

I would like _____ poinsettias at \$9.00 each

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

THANK YOU!

AWAY AT COLLEGE



Rachel Chroninger
281 Hubbell Apt. 1
Houghton, MI 49931

Logan Suszek
1910 Sugar Loaf Avenue Apt. 31
Marquette, MI 49855

Taylor Chroninger
Student Village A3A
680 W. Easterday Avenue
Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783

Ashley Timmreck
7400 Bay Road
Pine Grove 7720-8
University Center, MI 48710

Isabelle Denstaedt
227 Hazel Avenue
WVA 05 511-A
St. Louis, MO 63119

*Please contact the church office to
add a college student to this list.*

Riley Garant
2701 W. Michigan Apt. 302
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

Grace Kuligowski
Baker Hall East - Room #29
1044 W. Bristol Rd.
Flint, MI 48507

Caileigh Nitchman
Herrig Hall 207
403 E. Broomfield St.
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

Aaron Nowak
Larzelere Hall
203 W. Bellows Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Brody Nowak
1122 West Campus Drive
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Valerie Slaght
315 Van Antwerp Hall
Marquette, MI 49855



Wesley Garant (USAF)
107 West DL Ingram Avenue
Unit 103 C
Clovis, New Mexico 88101

*Please contact the church office to
add a name to this list.*





Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Day announces Its Youth Essay Contest

Essay entries will be divided into two groups, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12.

The essay prizes will be \$100 for first place and \$75 for second place for each group.

The winners will be asked to read their essays on Monday, January 15, 2018 as part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Day event at 6:30 p.m. at the ACC Granum Theatre. The community will be invited to share in this event.

Guidelines

- Essays for grades 6-8 must be from 300-500 words.
- Essays for grades 9-12 must be from 500-800 words.
- The essay question to be addressed is "Martin Luther King, Jr. was known for working for equal rights for all using non-violent methods. Using examples from current events, why is Dr. King's message still important today? How can we honor his message of equal rights for all today?"
- All essays must be an original work.
- All essays must be formatted as a WORD document attached to an email message. Send essays to mlkjr@alpena@gmail.com
- Entries must be clearly labeled with the:

**author's full name, age, grade in school, name of school
mailing address, phone number, and
word count.**

- **All essays must be submitted by Friday, December 22, 2017.**
- **Winners will be contacted by Monday, January 8, 2018.**

Essays will be judged by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Committee for the Alpena Area.
In order to have a valid Essay Contest, we need a minimum of 20 qualified submissions for each group (grades 6-8 and grades 9-12).

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD

DECEMBER 2017

ACOLYTES

03
10
17
24
31

HOSPITAL

JANET CHRONINGER

LECTORS

03 JOE GENTRY
10 ANNE GENTRY
17 BILL & NANCY PLATT
24 Early VICKI DENSTAEDT
Late
31 SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

USHERS

JOEL SUSZEK
GARY & KAY GROVE
RICK ENGSTROM
JACK TUCKER

GREETERS

03 CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS
10 PAUL, VICKI & MIRIAM DENSTAEDT
17 ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY
24 Early DON & VERA FURZE
Late RICK & SHARON ENGSTROM
31 CORKY GATES, PATTI MACNEILL

COUNTERS

CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

WAYNE & CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON

ALTAR GUILD

GENTRY FAMILY
DENSTAEDT FAMILY

FLOWERS

03 GENTRY
10 GOHLKE
17 CROSS
24 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
31 FURZE

COFFEE HOUR

03 JOEL & CINDY SUSZEK
10 WAYNE & ANNA LEWIS
17 RICK & SHARON ENGSTROM
24 NO MORNING SERVICE
31 JEFF & SANDY WELCH

***PLEASE, please, please try to find a replacement or someone
to switch with if you are unable to fulfill your Sunday
scheduled duty AND share the change with Peggy. Thank you!***

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD

JANUARY 2018

ACOLYTES

07
14
21
28

HOSPITAL

JANET CHRONINGER

LECTORS

07 MIKE URLAUB
14 CHERYL WERBLOW
21 CORINNE FRALEY
28 SHARON ENGSTROM

USHERS

ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY
DON FURZE
MATT & OLIVIA HASKE

GREETERS

07 JOE & DAWN GENTRY
14 GARY & KAY GROVE
21 WAYNE & ANNA LEWIS
28 JOELYN RICH, PHRAN LUDINGTON

COUNTERS

DALE & PAT SCHULTZ

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

JOE GENTRY
WAYNE LEWIS

ALTAR GUILD

KAY ZINSLI
KELLI LISKE

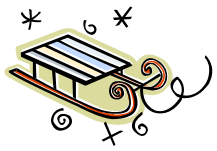
FLOWERS

07
14
21
28

COFFEE HOUR

07 CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS
14 BARB WERLE, ANGIE CRITTENDEN,
ELLIE WALKER
21 JOE, DAWN & ANNE GENTRY
28 ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY

***PLEASE, please, please try to find a replacement or someone
to switch with if you are unable to fulfill your Sunday
scheduled duty AND share the change with Peggy. Thank you!***



December



Birthdays

December 18

Stephen Hansen
Jack Tucker

December 19

Donna Czarnecki

December 20

Gracelyn Gohlke
Reed Lappan

December 21

Charlotte Werth

December 22

Shane Jaroch
Connie Stepanski

December 24

Patricia Schultz
Mick Zinsli

December 25

Matthew Freel

December 26

Taylor Agius
Andrea Rich

December 27

Jessica Timm

December 29

Verna Furze
Kenda Yochum

December 30

Tom Lappan

December 31

Lee Szczesniak

Anniversaries of Baptism



December 1

Andrea Matzke

December 4

Kevin Graham

December 6

Monica Jahnke
Levi Konarzewski

December 7

Gary Grove

December 8

Jewel Lancaster
Ryan Werblow

December 9

Cindy Suszek

December 11

David Dekett

December 12

Janie Hansen

December 13

Sean Caparo
Clarence
Cross

December 14

Cheryl Lang

December 16

Polly Cook

December 17

Joel Gillard

December 21

Gracie Gillard

December 23

Melissa Chabot

December 24

Riley Garant
Edward Jahnke
Kristina Wilson

December 26

Erin Graham

December 28

Jessica Konarzewski
Sherie McTaggart

December 30

Ethan McIntosh
Caldan Schaefer

December 31

Brent Barrow



Wedding Anniversaries

2nd	Joseph & Dawn Gentry	19th	George & Mary Rowader
	Dick & Barb Werle	21st	Matt & Jessica Gillard
3rd	Mick & Kay Zinsli	23rd	Tom & Joan Brennan
4th	Mike & Tracey Urlaub	24th	Larry & Sandy Garant
7th	Mike & Kim McCourt	30th	Justin & Janelle Gluesing
			Tom & Mary Lappan

Kid's Page

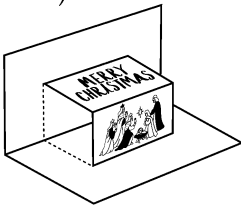


POP-UP CARD

Share the good news of Jesus' birth with this creative Christmas card.

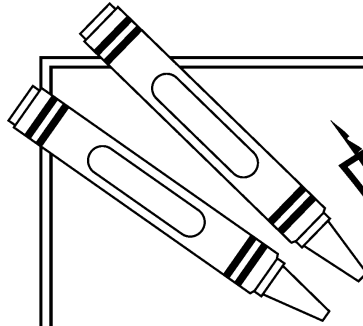
What you need:

- Construction paper (two pieces, including one white)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pens
- Glue stick



What you do:

1. Neatly fold the white paper in half, short side to short side.
2. Draw two parallel lines (at least 2 inches apart) from the fold to about halfway to the edge. Cut along the lines.
3. Fold the cut section back and forth so it pops up.
4. Push the section up so it pops up inside the folded paper. Draw a nativity scene on the pop-up box.
5. Fold the colored paper in half, short side to short side. Place the white paper inside it and glue the white paper down, being careful not to glue the pop-up box.
6. Write a Christmas message and give or send the card to someone.



PUZZLE

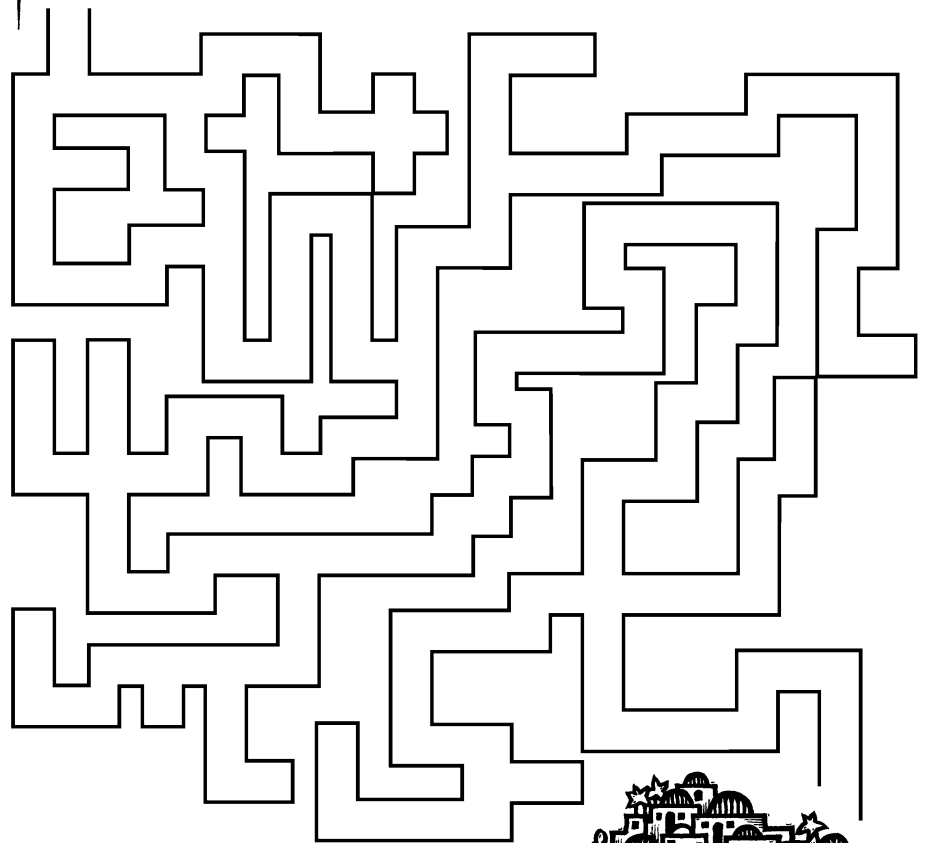
JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM



START

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.



BETHLEHEM

