

Oak Leaves



A Publication of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Bloomington, Minnesota

Dear Friends:

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Inserts (4):

- WoW! Calendar
- Multicultural Insert
- Boundary Waters Update
- Christian Thoughts/ Feelings Survey Request

PREACHING TEXTS For my first few years at Oak Grove, I often followed the Revised Common Lectionary, preaching from the suggested texts. In recent years we preachers have not generally followed the lectionary for a number of reasons. However, Pastors Jermaine, Mary and I have decided that we will try following a new lectionary resource beginning January 22, 2017.

The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of readings. On the Sundays from September through May each year, the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. The texts show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture. They invite people to hear the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, Jesus, and Paul. Listening to the many different voices within Scripture enriches preaching and the life of faith.

The texts include the major episodes in Scripture. They are arranged in a narrative sequence to help people see Scripture as a story that has coherence and a dynamic movement.

- From September to mid-December the preaching texts begin with the early chapters of Genesis, move through the stories of Israel's early history, the exodus, the kings, prophets, exile and return.
- From Christmas to Easter there is sustained reading of one of the four gospels. In January, 2017, it will be the gospel of Luke.
- From Easter to Pentecost the texts are chosen from Acts and Paul's letters.

Certainly we will vary from the suggested readings for special occasions and significant world events. But other than that, we look forward to this and trust that it will be helpful for you.

Blessings,
Pastor Bill



2016 Service of Shadow & Light



Pastor Bill as St. Nicholas

Deadline for the Feb 2017 Oak Leaves is - **January 15** - Articles may be edited for space and/or content.

January
2017

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Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:30 am—5:00 pm

Friday—8:30 am—3:00 pm

Oak Grove Staff

Ministers: **the 520 members**

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2017 Per Capita = \$33.75



Join Choir for Special Performances

submitted by Judy Cooper

Do you like to sing but don't have time to make a commitment to singing in choir all year? Think about joining us to sing with only a few rehearsals.

On **Sunday, January 15**, the tenors & basses will be singing. We will have 2 rehearsals: Wednesday, January 4 and January 11 at 6:15 pm. You'll be done by 7:00. Since we have some women tenors, I'm not calling this a men's chorus. It is open to anyone whose voice fits the tenor/bass range.

Then on **Sunday, February 5**, the sopranos and altos will sing. These rehearsals will be Wednesday, January 25 and February 1 at 6:15 pm. Anyone whose voice range falls into soprano or alto is welcome to join us – even if you sang with the tenors!!!

If you have questions, contact Judy Cooper (jcooper@oakgrv.org).

Upcoming Retreats

Men: February 3-5. Come join us as we explore a theme of "Radical Empathy." We are excited to have three terrific discussion leaders this year - Pastor Bill and Pastor Jermaine from Oak Grove and Pastor Gwin Pratt from Church of the Apostles in Burnsville! In addition, we are inviting men from Chain of Lakes and Church of the Apostles to join us this year. Sign-ups will happen on Sundays in January in the church narthex starting on Jan. 8. Cost will be \$120 and scholarships are available. We especially invite any men who have not attended before (and yes, the retreat ends in plenty of time to get back for the Super Bowl!). Questions can be sent to Don Alman (dalmanfh451@msn.com) or Gar Nordin (gar_nordin@hotmail.com). Plan now to attend!

Intergenerational: March 3 -5, 2017. Folks of all ages and family situations are invited to Clearwater Forest in early March for a time of recreation and fellowship. Watch for more details after the first of next year or contact Larry Pearson (pear3408@aol.com) with any questions.



Blood Drive at Oak Grove, January 24

Please say yes when you are called to donate. Blood drive opens at 1:00 pm and closes at 6:30 pm.

Drop-ins are welcome. Contact Paul Schalekamp (952-888-1836 or Schalekamp@aol.com) with questions.

Congregation News/Events

January 2017 Preaching Schedule (Year of Shalom)

Jan 1	Mary Koon	Jan 15	Jermaine (Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday)
Jan 8	Choir Cantata - <i>Let There Be Christmas</i>	Jan 22	Bill Chadwick
	Officer Ordination/Installation	Jan 29	Bill Chadwick

SAVE THE DATES!!

Oak Rovers (fellowship of mature adults) will attend the uproarious musical ***Little Shop of Horrors*** at the Schneider Theater in the Bloomington Center for the Arts at 7:30 pm on Saturday, February 11, 2017. Oak Grove's very own Tyler Hudson plays the central character, Seymore Krelborn. Twenty seats have been blocked at the Group Rate of \$30. Look for sign-ups in the Narthex on January 1 and 8 between services to reserve seats, or call Bill Pomroy any time before January 20 at 218-391-3319.

Minnesota Timberwolves Outing -- Join fellow Oak Grovers on Sunday, February 12 at 2:30 to see the Timberwolves take on the Chicago Bulls. Come and see the exciting trio of Karl Anthony Towns, Andrew Wiggins, and Zach Levine as they showcase the future of Wolves basketball. The plan is to carpool, or take light rail and eat downtown before the game. Tickets are \$20, and deadline to sign up is January 29. **All ages are welcome!** Look for a sign-ups in the narthex, or contact Ron Dubis 612-868-9194.

Crafting with the Apostles (*Church of the Apostles*) —

Calling all crafters. Come join us as we craft with others from Presbyterian Church of the Apostles for a morning of relaxing, visiting and crafting. We will share ideas as we create bonds with our neighboring church and develop lasting friendships all while taking time to enjoy our own personal craft creations. Bring the materials for your activity and join us on Saturday, January 21 between



Making Lefsa

9:00 – Noon at Oak Grove. No reservations needed.

We meet monthly, alternating between PCA in Burnsville and OGPC. If you can't attend this time, but are interested in attending in the future, please contact Yvonne at yvonesdodge@hotmail.com and send your preferred times. We are also looking for a fun name for the group/activity.



New Member Inquiry Classes

If you are interested in joining Oak Grove (or you know someone who's interested), classes will be:

- Jan 15 Noon—2:00 pm (lunch served and nursery available)
- Jan 22 9:15 am
- Jan 29 9:15 am meet with Session and then be welcomed into membership at 10:45 worship.

Contact Sandy Crum (952-888-2114) or skcrum@centurylink.net with questions.

Upcoming Group and All-Church Outings

- >Tuesday, Jan 3, Burger 'n' Brew Men's Fellowship at noon at Zeke's in Bloomington.
- >Thursday, Jan 5, Caregivers' Tea & Funtime Respite Care at 2:00 pm at the church.
- >Thursday, Jan 19, Lunch Bunch Respite Care at 11:00 am at the church.
- >Saturday, February 25 defibrillator class. If you are interested in attending, please contact Holly Mae Dredge at 952-831-5254.

Please note that the Chancel Choir Cantata has been rescheduled for 10:45a January 8.

Kiva Update -- Kiva is such a rewarding organization for OGPC to support! Their structure allows our mission dollars to just keep giving, and giving and giving. First, we have the pleasure of perusing through the requested micro-loans from people around the world. After we loan the money, we get regular reports on how the repayments are coming along. And once our loan is repaid, we get to start all over again with new recipients. So our pool of money keeps working to help folks over and over again – what a great deal! Our most recent micro-loans through Kiva have been: \$175 for poultry in Nepal, \$150 for tailoring supplies in Palestine, and \$150 for embroidery supplies in Pakistan. Did you know that you can “gift” Kiva funds to a loved one and they can pick who to loan their money to? Visit www.kiva.org to check it out.

Look at What’s Happening at Oasis! As so many of you know, Oasis for Youth got its start right here at OGPC and is still operating in the lower level, offering support to homeless youth through their Resource Center and Drop-In hours. They offer housing and employment support as well as a clothes closet, bus passes and personal hygiene items.

An exciting new addition to Oasis’s services is their Scattered Site Housing Program. Oasis has 8 apartments they will support. Oasis will maintain the apartments for the use of their clients. They will carefully select which Oasis clients qualify to use the apartments to help get them established in safe, reliable housing. At the same time, the clients gain experience in becoming responsible renters. Oasis case managers will work closely with their clients and the apartment managers to optimize everyone’s experience. Because Oasis is sponsoring each apartment, it will always be available for the use of Oasis clients. OGPC Mission Committee has committed to providing financial support for one apartment for the duration of 2017!

Meals on Wheels Update

Thank you, Pat Latourelle, for accepting the vital task of calling for Meals on Wheels volunteers!

Book’em funds were dispersed to 20 organizations, including the police, for various needs. Recipients include Cornerstone, Summer Playground and Oasis -- all of these organizations were “born” at Oak Grove! Thanks to all folks who donated and especially purchased this year — we are looking forward to another sale next year. Thanks so much.

Bridging Needs — January is a time to clean out and reorganize to start a new year and Bridging is in need of many new or gently used items including:

- sheets (especially queen size)
- towels
- pots and pans
- rugs (any size under 8x10),
- working TVs (need to be HD flat screens)
- microwave ovens in working order
- lamps
- vacuums

The need is great. A tub will be in the narthex for your donations through January . Furniture can always be dropped off at their site (201 87th St, Bloomington). Thanks for your help. Contact Beatties (952-940-0742)

The **Supportive Housing Committee** would like to give a huge  to everyone for their awesome participation in the Giving Tree event this year. We received many gifts, gift cards, cookies, cash, gift wrap... truly an overwhelming response. We continue to be amazed by the generosity of our fellow Oak Grovers!! Thank you also to Pamara and Bob Ritter, who volunteered their time at the event. We appreciate you so very much!

Happy New Year from the Social Justice Committee!

Our New Year's Resolution for 2017 is to start a social justice book club. The first book we will be reading is *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*, Ed Sun Yung Shin. This book is written by 16 local authors who tell of their experiences as people of color in Minnesota. The book club meeting dates and times are to be determined.

A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota- Ed Sun Yung Shin -- Book description from Amazon: *In this provocative book, sixteen of Minnesota's best writers provide a range of perspectives on what it is like to live as a person of color in one of the whitest states in the nation. They give readers a splendid gift: the gift of touching another human being's inner reality, behind masks and veils and politeness. They bring us generously into experiences that we must understand if we are to come together in real relationships. Minnesota communities struggle with some of the nation's worst racial disparities. As its authors confront and consider the realities that lie beneath the numbers, this book provides an important tool to those who want to be part of closing those gaps. Stay tuned for more on when and where soon!!*

Mark Your Calendars!!! We will offer a viewing of the documentary *The 13th* this year. Date TBD.

February 8, during WoW!, we will host a **talkback session** with members of the Bloomington police including the gentleman who created the Support the Bloomington Police, and possibly members of the Human Rights Commission. This session will offer a chance for us to stand united against the systemic violence against people of color while working towards solutions through grace.

The session sent the following letter to our Muslim friends who worship in Bloomington:

Dear Sisters and Brothers of MCC Al-Rahman,

The Oak Grove Presbyterian staff and Session (church council) write to express our solidarity with you and the entire Muslim-American community. During this time of growing Islamophobia here at home and around the world, we want you to know that we stand in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters. Last summer, we broke bread together during Ramadan, and thank you again for welcoming us into your home.

After a national election year that was marked with rhetoric of hatred and fear, we are concerned about actions that may be taken in the upcoming administration. We are saddened by the violence inflicted upon Muslims in the name of geopolitical dominance, ignorance and bigotry.

As followers of Jesus, who preached love, welcome, and inclusion, we want you to know that we renounce the hatred directed at Muslims here and around the world.

As a church, we express our solidarity with all of you, as fellow descendants of Abraham. Ours is a God of love and justice. We acknowledge the sacredness of life and commit to be co-creators of the peace, mercy, justice, and forgiveness, taught by our faith.

We repent on behalf of our fellow "Christians" who, in ignorance, engage in hate speech directed at Muslims. Please know that when you feel prejudice, bigotry or hate from those claiming to be Christian, we do not stand with them and will correct them. As followers of Jesus and children of one God, we mourn with you, weep with you, and pray with you until that day when peace will come. Please continue to spread love and peace throughout our community and know that you are not alone.

Assalamu alaikum, The Clergy Staff and Session of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Adult Faith Formation

Jan 8 Shalom Sabbath Practices: This begins a 3-week series on Sabbath practices of the three major Abrahamic Faiths – Judaism, Christianity and Islam. All have Sabbath Day traditions, and all have intrusions by modern day life. We hope to have a rabbi with us to discuss Jewish traditions.

Jan 15 We will review our **Christian traditions** with a Christian seminary professor.

Jan 22 We will learn about **Islamic traditions** from Imam Samir Saikali.

Jan 29 Shalom - Health: What are you drinking? Georgia Cook from “Tea Source” will share information about all kinds of tea and how it is used to stimulate, de-stress and join friends and strangers in community. Samples will be available!

Wednesdays 6:15 - 7:15 pm

Jan 4 Shalom for your soul! – Lisa Ervin will facilitate discussion about feminist theology from the book *She Who Is*. If you signed up for a copy of the book, they are in the office. Cost is ~ \$10.

Jan 11 Shalom for your soul! – Continued discussion of feminist theology using the book *She Who Is*.

Jan 18 Shalom for your soul! – Continued discussion of feminist theology using the book *She Who Is*.

Jan 25 Shalom for bad boys and girls - Carol Osweiler will lead us in a discussion about, bad boy, King Ahab, Jezebel's husband, using *Bad Girls of the Bible*.



2016 Children's Christmas Pageant

Unfortunate Incident in our Parking Lot!

submitted by Don Alman for Building & Ops

On Sunday December 4, a Hennepin County snow plow had mechanical problems and pulled into OGPC's north lot to evaluate the issues with his truck; the truck "died" right there. Unfortunately, the diesel fuel in the tank leaked over a large area of the lot. Within a half hour, crews arrived to clean up the spill. On Monday December 5, I met with the Hennepin County Public Works foreman to evaluate the aftermath. Using a private area is against county policy. The issue is well documented and the foreman assured me that the county will make all necessary repairs to the lot in the spring or early summer of 2017.

What Pastor Bill is Reading

I recently read a couple of books recommended by Mary Koon. The first, *Very Married: Field Notes on Love and Fidelity*, is written by her friend, Katherine Willis Pershey. Despite my skepticism of a book on marriage written by someone under 40 who has been married less than fifteen years, I actually found it helpful and a very "real" and readable book. Recommended.

The other is a novel, *A Man Called Ove*, written by a Swedish author, Fredrick Backman. Had I not had Mary's strong recommendation I would not have made it past the first 20 pages, which are unremittingly... what's the right word? Grumpy, negative, depressing... But I soldiered on and was tremendously rewarded. A fantastic read! Thoughtful, funny, moving.

I sometimes joke about getting my sermons off the internet at midnight on Saturday night. There are indeed hundreds of thousands, or perhaps hundreds of millions, of sermons on the internet and seven or eight of them are worth reading. I tend to be very fussy about sermons. The giant exception to the lack of quality is anything by Barbara Brown Taylor. I am making my way through two of her compilations of sermons, *Mixed Blessings* and *Home By Another Way*. She is so gifted it makes ordinary mortals like me want to quit.

Presbyterian Women Circle News

Circle News – *Evening Star* meets Tuesday, January 3 at 7:00 pm at the church; call Connie Nesbitt, 952-935-3810. *Goodrich-Nord* meets Wednesday, January 11 at 8:45 am at the church; call Joan Stanko, 952-888-7577.

Next Coordinating Team Meeting - is Tuesday, January 3 at 8:30 am. Business meeting will begin at 9:00. All women members of the church are encouraged to attend.

PW's Mitten Tree The Mitten Tree that PW put in the narthex attracted lots of items – a total of 50 hats, mitten and scarves. You could barely see the tree for all the knitted items! They were donated to Cornerstone and Oasis. Thanks to **Margaret Koch** for putting it together and to YOU for your help.



Middle School Lockout

January Birthdays

(If you don't see your birthday, we either don't have that information or you requested that it not appear.)

*Important birthday (1-21) ** Significant birthday (85+)



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Matthew Carter*10; Blanche Loscheider**93 | 20 Mary Jones |
| 3 Barb Bruder; Nicole Jacobson*13; Jean McCarl; Cory Paape; Det Souvannansane | 21 Alan Eiler**85; Marilyn Stotesbery |
| 4 Lily Dodge*13; Hannah Jones*10 | 22 Chidera Esele; Rick Render |
| 5 Carrie Wilkens; Brian Boakye-Ansah*14 | 23 Tatum Gillies*10; Roger Hornnes; Dee Schneider**88 |
| 6 Eugene Orr; Joan Ulwelling; Beth Angerhofer | 24 Dale Copeland; Adan Decknatel; Angelo Cantu*7; Brandon McKinnon; Karna Mikkelson |
| 8 Jen Dahlberg**94; Wally Neal**89; Zachary Paape*15; Mary Tolvstad | 25 John Crampton |
| 9 Merrick Anderson; Gordy Augustson**89; Allan Carter*8; Sue Kim; Julia Steskal*8 | 26 Karen Alonzi; Leslie Davis; Jim Knutson; Sharon Solomon |
| 10 Violet Knutson**86; Trevor Reis | 27 Iris Karow; Maggie Snyder*19; Paula Uvodich |
| 13 Bobby Traeder*15; Chloe Traeder**15 | 28 Brooke Brandt; Morgan Duvall*14; Terry Nesbitt; Rita Raley; Susan Skovran; Gracie Thomas*5 |
| 14 Nathan Reed*17 | 29 Faith Grondin**88; Cece Klueh |
| 15 Lisa Pomroy; Bill Pomroy; Robert Worthington | 30 Jim Furber; Josh Pearson |
| 16 Pat West | 31 John Doxsie; Margaret Koch; Tim Taylor |
| 17 Anne Klueh | |
| 19 Susan Bachman; Kurt Bilalat; Mark Erickson; Jim Reineke | |

Thank You, Oak Grove

Thank you Oak Grovers, for your continued support of the 3-Day Walk for Breast Cancer! With your contributions, we raised over \$6.7M!!! Thank you for helping us get 1 step closer to a cure!

Sue Greimel

We don't realize how special our Oak Grove family is until a time like this occurs. We are so blessed. Pastors Bill and Mary, Beth A and the Prayer Shawl Ministry group, the cards, prayers, words of encouragement and especially the hugs that have surrounded us have helped so much and will continue to do so. Thanks so much.

Sam Beattie's family - Gordon, Dorothy, Jeff, Cindy & Pete

I wish to express my deepest appreciation for the lovely poinsettia that I received through my Friend to Friend. It certainly is nice that the Deacons give thought to us, the elderly who can't get out as often.

Ken Hanson

Thank you so much for all your care and concern for making honoring my dad, Vern Castle's life so special. Appreciate it more than words can say.

Carolyn Kronlokken

Condolences to family and friends of:

Linda Blair whose father died in December

Vern Castle died November 27.

Ron LaPointe died December 2.

Dave Borsos died in December.

Dick Johnson, Jeanne's Castle younger brother died in December.

WINTER SERIES Bloomington-Richfield Grief Coalition

4:30 - 6:00 pm Thursdays,
Jan 5 – Feb 23, 2017
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
1801 West Old Shakopee Rd.
952-881-5801

Date	Topic
Jan 5	<i>Why Do I Feel Like I'm Going Crazy?</i>
Jan 12	<i>Financial Well-being for Widows/Widowers</i>
Jan 19	<i>Grief and Soul Work</i>
Jan 26	<i>Letting Go</i>
Feb 2	<i>Habits of Resilience for Grievors</i>
Feb 9	<i>Hope and Healing</i>
Feb 16	<i>Strategies for Getting Unstuck</i>
Feb 23	<i>Discovering Hope in the Maize of Grief</i>

*Have A
Blessed
New Year!*

Elders

Milissa Carter has been at Oak Grove since 2010 and has served on Children's Committee. She is a full time Mom and volunteer. She and her husband Eric have 2 sons, Mathew and Allan plus 2 Golden Doodles, Teddy and Bella. Milissa lists hobbies as cooking, wine, reading non-fiction and quilting. She is excited about continuing her service as an elder.

Jacques Chassé and family moved to Minnesota in summer 2015 and have been at Oak Grove since the fall of last year. He has served on the Multicultural Committee as well as on Adult Faith Formation. Jacques' family includes his wife Cecelia Laurie and her son Bart Bleecker. Jacques' hobbies include hiking, cross country skiing, travel and muscle cars from the 60's and 70's. Jacques is a first-time elder.

Marleen Singhrai joined Oak Grove in September 2010 along with her husband and daughter, Wayne and Christina Persaud. Marleen enjoys cooking, gardening and crafting. This is her first time as an Elder.

Andy Snyder and family came to Oak Grove 3 years ago. His wife Sunny serves on the Green Committee, daughter Margaret is a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and son William is a sophomore at Jefferson High School. Andy works for the HealthEast Care System and is an adjunct faculty member at Metro State University teaching project management. Andy's activities and hobbies include exercising, playing competitive volleyball and sausage making. Andy is a first-time elder.

Jeff Williamson was baptized at Oak Grove and was active until the age of 12. He and his wife Candy came back to Oak Grove in 1994. In addition to serving previously as a Deacon, Jeff has served on the History, Nominating and Sesquicentennial Committees, plus volunteered at Simpson House and Loaves & Fishes. Jeff and Candy have 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren. Jeff comes from a long line of Presbyterian pastors and elders including Gideon Pond.

Derek Flanagan is our Youth Elder serving a one-year term for 2017. Derek attends Jefferson High School and plays percussion.

Deacons

Judy Acker has been at Oak Grove for 2 years now and is a first-time deacon. Judy has served on the Children's Committee. She and her husband Donald have three children, Chad, Adam and Bryan. Judy lists hobbies as needlework and knitting. She is excited to serve!

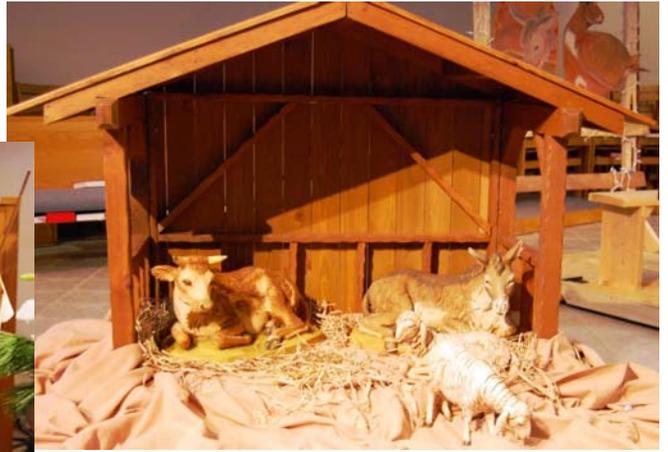
Gene Dodge came to Oak Grove in the fall of 2011. Gene is a first-time Deacon. He and his wife Yvonne and daughter Lily, have participated in Loaves & Fishes for over 3 years. Gene enjoys tinkering around the house, computer and yard work with their dogs Buck and Luka. His hobbies include recycling and outdoor activities.

Jim Goodermont and his family have been members of Oak Grove for 3 generations. He and his wife, Mitzi, were married here in 1970, and her funeral was here in 2010. After working as a UPS driver, Jim is retired, and enjoying spending his time biking, walking and traveling. Each year, he heads to Arizona to escape the winter cold! Jim is fortunate to have 3 adult children and 5 grandchildren living in Bloomington.

Larie Ann Schmidt will be serving as a first-time deacon and excited for the opportunity. She and her husband Ed joined Oak Grove in 2013 and were inspired to serve by meeting "awesome people" participating in Dinners for 8. Larie Ann has volunteered and served in a number of ways including Loaves & Fishes, prayer shawl group, ushering, receptionist, funeral coordinator, Friendship Committee and Adult Faith Formation to name a few. Her favorite activities include crafts, music and Red Hat events.

Paul Sowers came to Oak Grove in the fall of 2014 and this is his first time serving as a deacon. His family includes wife, Teresa, and 2 sons, Liam & Ethan. Paul has been a Cub Scout Den Leader and enjoys backpacking, hiking, camping and fishing. Paul is honored to be elected and looks forward to serving.

Heading to the Christmas Manger



Our Members Shared Their Favorite Crechés