

## Ministry Announcements for the week of November 11, 2018

### TODAY IN WORSHIP!

- ✝ Altar flowers are to the glory of God in loving memory of Richard Helm on what would be his 100th birthday. Also, the altar flowers are additionally given to the glory of God in celebration of Dr. Eric Helm's birthday on November 8. Flowers are given by Lois Webb.
- ✝ As a gift of grace, members of the prayer team are available for you in the prayer chapel (across the hall from the chapel) following the 9:30 worship.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PACKING PARTY - TODAY!** You are invited to an Operation Christmas Child packing party today, November 11, at 12:30 pm in Brenner Hall. We will be packing boxes with items to be given to a child who may never have received a gift before. Our goal is to fill 125 boxes this year. We need volunteers to help fill the boxes. Bring a lunch or snacks and come join us for fun and fellowship. We will provide beverages and munchies. Come for a short time or plan to stay the whole afternoon. We look forward to seeing you!

**MEN'S BASKETBALL - TUESDAY EVENINGS FROM 7:45 TO 9:30.** Men's basketball season will begin on Tuesday, November 13th. Enjoy a couple hours of basketball and community. Open to Grace Lutheran Church men and their friends. Invite your friends and neighbors or come on your own. We'd love to see you there! For additional information contact Ryan Moore at 419.262.7926. Please consider joining us.

### HOPE, HELP AND HEALING FOR SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE LOSS

Saturday, November 17 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church. Join us for a free event on National Survivors of Suicide Loss Day where those affected by suicide loss can come together to find hope, help and healing. The event includes resources, refreshments, speakers memorial activities, a short film, and a remembrance ceremony. Feel free to bring a picture of your loved one with you.

**SHOP ON AMAZON? DONATE TO GRACE!** With a few keystrokes, a portion of your purchase can be donated to Grace (same Amazon products and prices). Click on the following link and you won't have to search for Grace, you'll go right to supporting GLC: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-0872428>

**MILK A GOAT IN YOUR BACKYARD AND TRAVEL** to the other side of the world, delivering life-giving sustenance to a family . . . or, for \$50.00 send the goat (and, get a goat Christmas tree ornament!). Join this gathering of world blessers named Grace, and help empty the Christmas tree for Jesus. Through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) Good Gifts program, we're striving to send 30 goats around the world for Christmas.

### INSPIRED BY GRACE IS HOSTING A HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE DEC. 1

and all are welcome to attend. With a large variety of crafters, consultants and local small businesses, there is sure to be something to suit your interests. Come on out and shop local! We will have door prizes, concessions, free parking and admission and even a visit from Santa himself! A portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the Grace Lutheran Church Youth Group! For questions about Vendor space or to volunteer or donate an item for our raffles, please send us a message or call/text us at 419.481.1225 or email us at [GetInspiredByGrace@gmail.com](mailto:GetInspiredByGrace@gmail.com) Vendor space is \$35 ( \$20 for Grace Lutheran Church members ) and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the GLC Youth Group. Contact info is listed above for any questions or to reserve vendor space.

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**Oh Nuts! Oh My! Let's Make Space to Give Thanks for Grace!**  
**2 Corinthians 7:16 – 8:15**

*“Glorious God,  
how curious  
and what a confession  
that we should set aside one day a year  
and call it Thanksgiving.” (Ted Loder)  
So, help us, gracious God, to give you a whole month!*

**OH NUTS!**

Paul arrives in Macedonia, and they're fighting. It must have been bad, so much so that the apostle isn't sure how things will turn out. Been there? Unsure of how things will turn out?

**OH MY!**

Unable to rest, feeling afflicted in every way, (2 Corinthians 7:5) . . . but oh my, here comes the God “who consoles the downcast” (2 Corinthians 7:6) consoling Paul in double-portion: 1) with the arrival of a friend (Titus); and 2) Titus bearing news of the church in Corinth being invested in Paul's well-being (“your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me” – 7:7). Golly, how true: we think we're all alone and then, out of no where, we get news, evidence, experiences, stories of prayers and grace being poured out upon us – the Holy Spirit pouring in, with, and under God's grace – God-at-work battling back alongside us against the struggles of life. Paul had helped Corinth through a difficult time and Titus comes with good news of God's grace at work bringing renewal.

And then, Paul gives back to Corinth what is always great joy to those who have experienced the grace of God: news of God's grace changing other lives in the midst of their great challenges. The fighting in Macedonia is transforming into abundant joy and now, they too, are giving thanks by sharing grace.

**OH NUTS! OH MY!**

In this season of the year for giving thanks, we're going to make space to give thanks for graces we've experienced or that we know of (i.e., the “Oh My!” of God's grace showing up in the midst of “Oh Nuts!” Who be we, that we should attempt such a thing? We're just ordinary folks. BUT, we're ordinary folks *sharing life together in Christ* and, smack dab in the middle of these lives together, we experience again and again that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. For us, baptized into the life of Christ, God's grace – God's love – lives among us in personal, empowering, persistent, generous realities.

For four weeks, we're going to intentionally give thanks to God for grace we've known or grace we've seen . . . not just in general, but in specifics. Worship will include space to tell God your “O Nuts” and to give thanks and praise to God for God's “Oh Mys” showered unto you. For four weeks, your prayer-thanksgivings and your prayer-stories will be gathered and, when you come back the next week, there they will be, on the cross. We hope, at the end of November, to have a gift to God – a gift of a thank-filled cross – praise and thanks in prayer for personal, empowering, persistent, generous graces experienced and or witnessed.

And then, as we move into Advent (the first Sunday of Advent will display the completely filled cross from November), the theme of generosity can continue as we strive to give to Jesus a Christmas present of an empty tree.

**LOOKING AHEAD....THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

Do you have children or know of children who would be interested in participating in a Christmas program? If so, please see either Kim Kondalski or Nancy Stepelton to let them know.

As the season of Advent approaches, families will be needed to light the candles in the Advent wreath and share the readings with our parish members. Are you interested in participating in this? Please let the office know. Also understand that a “family” may be made up of all ages -- adults, adults with children, grandparents -- you get the idea!

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## TWO THOUGHTS ABOUT OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF GRACE CHURCH

### 1) What do my contributions do for Grace?

Think about your budget at home. The expense of keeping the household running, from utilities to bathroom tissue, lawn care and snow removal, insurance and transportation. These expenses are the same ones only larger for us at 4441 Monroe street. Add in the "cost of doing business" like paper and reproduction cost, phone and other communications. sound system and musical instrument (organ and piano) maintenance, office supplies like pens and paper clips. You begin to see where your contributions to Grace are used. This also includes our staff, Pastor, custodian, office and music staff, and a small fund to help those in need when they come to our door. There are other expenses too many to think of or list here, but when we come to a warm or cool well lit and maintained place or phone call of need to the Grace office we see our contributions at work.

### 2) How do we help with Ministry?

By maintaining our facility at 4441 Monroe street, we support the community. We have three AA groups for both women and men meeting here regularly, A group to support Adult children of alcoholics, people working for clean water, meetings to help those who want to eat healthier, local Pastors who get together for fellowship and to play volleyball. A place for those dealing with suicide or addiction to seek help. A gym for basketball to keep people off the streets. room for a dulcimer band to practice. These things taking place here minister to our community because of our financial support, Our contributions also allow us to have Pastor Al with us. His ministry is HUGE. Not only Sunday Morning (which takes hours of preparation weekly) but doing counseling, funerals, weddings, baptisms, catechism. attending meetings. and other "Pastor" stuff at church. He is also there in a crisis. On a phone call he will drive to Cleveland or Ann Arbor to support and pray with someone in need. Daily hospital. nursing home, and home bound visits are common. He ministers to our Sunshine Friends as well as a church service for our Graceful Friends and those staying at Kingston. He has even been known to send email while in a plane over the Rockies on vacation  
In the space provided here, we have only touched the surface of how vital the continued financial support of the Grace Family is to our ministry here. As we enter this year's stewardship campaign. please prayerfully consider the amount of your treasure you will give back to The Lord. With our expenses well contained by council even the smallest increase in giving can maintain and help further our ministry.

Bless The World And Be God's Grace.

**Mzogole Water Project - Update** \$1,100 were raised at the Clean Water -Mzogole dinner and presentation last Saturday evening. Members of the Grace Global Mission Committee with help from several churches in the Toledo area joined with the people of Grace for dinner and an informative presentation. Pastor Rob Johnson from Holy Trinity in Toledo presented a slide show entitled "The River from Northwestern Ohio". He highlighted the many ways clean from a Thrivent Community Action Grant sponsored the dinner event. Members water in a remote village changes everything, from better health and hygiene, to less time fetching water and more time for other things, to economic growth for the residents. It gives people hope. People with hope act, and with action even more changes can be made.

Stu Smith a partner from N&S Ground+Water Tanzania Ltd, presented a slide show entitled "Challenges of Developing Water Wells in Tanzania". He highlighted the varied geology and landscape of the area, and how this contributes to the difficulty of finding water even after all the geological testing and site surveys have been completed. Every success is truly cause for celebration. Stu reported the wind powered pump system in Mzogole has once again failed, and the villagers have resorted to digging shallow holes in the dried-up river bed to obtain ground water for their daily needs. This water contains dissolved sediment causing discoloration and gritty consistency. Open water sources also attract cattle and other animals, and therefore gets polluted with bacteria and parasites. Some families must spend up to 4 or 5 hours per day (depending on distance and size of family) fetching water. After that, families must spend what little money they have, to buy charcoal or wood to build fires to boil the water making it a little safer to consume.

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The Mzogole Water Project is an ongoing effort to raise enough money to drill a new well and equip it with a solar powered submersible pump that will provide the village and surrounding area with a reliable sustainable inexpensive source of clean water. Enough money has been collected so far that a bore hole has been drilled. The bore hole failed to tap into a significant source of water, but enough water is available that a hand operated pump has been installed to at least provide the village with a very limited source of fresh clean water. Further work needs to be done. The Grace Global Mission Committee would like to thank its members, Thrivent Financial for the seed money, Pastor Rob Johnson, Stu Smith, members of other congregations, and members from Grace who attended the event. We also thank the many people who have offered prayer, purchased Mzogole Water Certificates and key chains, and those who've made special gifts to support the project. God Bless all of you and the people of Mzogole.

**LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY INVITATION** The Lutheran Campus Ministry at UT would like to invite any college student in the Toledo area to our weekly gatherings! We meet at 7 p.m. on Mondays for a small group Bible study. Come hang out, eat snacks and talk about God with us! You'll find us on the 2nd floor of the Ark (2080 Brookdale Road, on the NW corner of UT's campus).

**THURSDAY 10AM BIBLE STUDY** invites you to our study of JOSEPH. Joseph knew what it was to suffer. Joseph is sold into slavery by his own brothers! How can Joseph ever forgive the wrong done to him?

**BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** Join us Sunday December 2 at 2:00pm for a special program on MARY. Why did God choose Mary to be the mother of Jesus? Mary is one of the most fascinating figures in Christianity. What does the example of Mary teach our world today about humility, faith and service to others?

**Sunday, November 11**

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Assisting Minister:

Lector: Dan Holzscheiter

Ushers: Rick Wood, Ann Fleck, Grace Peterson, Bob Haaf

Fellowship Hosts: Sue Wagner and Janet Moore

Fellowship Greeter: Gretchen Hiatt

**UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:**

November 21 Thanksgiving Eve Service At Memorial Lutheran Church

November 22 Thanksgiving Day (Grace office closed)

November 25 Christ the King Sunday

Advent Sundays December 2, 9, 16 and 23

December 15 Christmas Outreach for Children (2:00 to 4:00pm)

December 21 Blue Service at 6:30 p.m.

December 24 Christmas Eve Services at 3:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

December 25 Christmas Day - One Service at 10:30 a.m.

December 30 One Service at 10:30 a.m. - A Healing Service

Year 2020 Grace Lutheran's 120th Anniversary (Sept. 13, 2020)