

Ministry Announcements for the week of November 18, 2018

TODAY IN WORSHIP!

- ✝ Altar flowers are to the glory of God in memory of Christopher Helm given by Judy Helm and family.
- ✝ 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.

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.

ASK NOT, "WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS, but what do you want to give for Christmas?" and set people in your life to thinking differently. It is one thing to say, "Jesus is the reason for the season", it is another thing to celebrate Christmas according to the way Jesus lived. \$50.00 and you can walk the talk. Plan on joining our GLC effort to bless the world with a bunch of goats for Christmas. Through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) Good Gifts programs, we want to send 30 goats around the world. **To purchase a goat...**place your payment of \$50 per goat in a pew envelope with your name on it. Put the envelope in the offering plate. And, remove a goat ornament from the tree. It's that simple!

POINSETTIA SALE TO BENEFIT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is on now through Sunday, December 2. Complete an order form and return it with your payment - either putting it in the offering plate or give it to the Church office. Not only will the colorful plants decorate our sanctuary but our ministry of Vacation Bible School will benefit as well. Order forms are in the rear of the sanctuary or on the table by the office.

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>

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, free parking and admission, concessions 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, please send us a message or call/text us at 419.481.1225 or email us at 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.

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!

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!

HELP NEEDED ON CHRISTMAS EVE! With a busy schedule of services on Christmas Eve, your help is needed following the 3:00pm service to tidy up the sanctuary in preparation for the 10:30pm service. If you are able to help, please let the office know. Thank you for being a blessing!

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).

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE AT GRACE! The American Red Cross, along with Earth Lyons (a student working on a scholarship), will offer a blood drive on Saturday, November 24 starting at 9:00am in Brenner Hall. To schedule an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: GRACELUTHTOLEDO or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

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?

HERE'S A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR YOU! Would you read the Bible daily for an entire year? The NW Ohio Synod would like all of us to do that -- together! By the end of the year, we would complete reading the entire Bible. More to come on this! (p.s. - daily reading of 3 chapters would complete the task!)

Sunday, November 18

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

Lector: Laura Frost

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

Fellowship Hosts: Gretchen Hiatt and Nancy Lockard

UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:

November 21	Thanksgiving Eve Service At Memorial Lutheran Church
November 22	Thanksgiving Day (Grace office closed)
November 24	Red Cross Blood Drive at Grace (9:00am-2:00pm in Brenner Hall)
November 25	Christ the King Sunday
December 2	Advent 1 - Focus on John the Baptist
December 9	Advent 2 - Focus on Joseph
December 15	Christmas Outreach for Children (2:00 to 4:00pm)
December 16	Advent 3 - Children's Program, Focus on Angels
December 21	Blue Service at 6:30 p.m.
December 23	Advent 4 - Focus on Mary
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
January 6	Epiphany
January 13	Baptism of Our Lord
Year 2020	Grace Lutheran's 120th Anniversary (Sept. 13, 2020)