

**Ministry Announcements for the week of November 25, 2018**

**TODAY IN WORSHIP!**

- ✝ Today is Christ The King Sunday.
- ✝ 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.

**BUY A GOAT, BE GOD'S GRACE!** 30 times over, our congregation hopes to bless the world this Christmastide. This year, the Grace Christmas tree will be ornamented with goats and your invitation to ministry is to help empty the tree by Christmas. For \$50.00, through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Good Gifts program, you can send a goat to a family in need. To purchase a goat: Use a pew envelope, put your money (cash or check) in the envelope and place in the offering plate. Be sure to take one ornament off the tree for every goat you purchase. Checks should be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church.

**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.

**THANK YOU NOTE FROM GRACE FULL FRIENDS!**

Dear Leaders,

Thank you for offering this ministry. My daughter, Christine Schmidt, looks forward to this each month. We do have a Sunday School Ministry for the handicapped at Emmanuel Baptist Church that we belong to and attend weekly.

God bless each of you and may you have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Judy Pidcoch, a Grateful Mother

**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](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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## FELLOWSHIP FAIR UPDATE!

Thanks to everyone who helped with Fellowship Fair on Election Day and the following Sunday! We had a total profit of \$505.75. We will add this to our current balance in the fund and will be donating to the following: Feed Your Neighbor, Personal Needs Ministry, Jacobs Fund (for the chapel windows), 4 new hymnals, money to go toward the cost of shipping for Operation Christmas Child and ... 1 Goat! Thanks again for your support of our efforts. - Blessings!

JoAnne Vernon and Debbie Johnson.

## ***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 nowhere, 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.

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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.

## **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!

## **KROGER REWARDS**

We received a payment from the Kroger Rewards program covering the period August 1 to October 31. The payment was in the amount of \$459.73, an increase of \$70 from our last payment. Please check the bottom of your Kroger receipt to make sure you are designating Grace Lutheran Church to receive the Rewards from your grocery shopping.

**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 25**

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Assisting Minister: Peter Kramp  
Lector: Cindy Wood  
Ushers: Rick Wood, Ann Fleck, Grace Peterson, Bob Haaf  
Fellowship Hosts: Laura Frost, Paula Cumpian, Carla Wooten

**UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:**

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)