

Ministry Announcements for the week of December 2, 2018

TODAY IN WORSHIP!

- ✝ Today is the First Sunday of Advent.
- ✝ 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.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR IN FELLOWSHIP HALL TODAY!

Join fellow parishioners in-between services in Fellowship Hall for some coffee, some conversation and some refreshments.

UN-DECORATE TO DECORATE. Un-decorate the GLC Christmas tree and decorate yours. That's right, take a goat home and start a new family tradition. What a story you could begin building on your Christmas tree by adding each year an ornament symbolizing your family's working to bless the world as God blesses you and yours through Jesus Christ. Plan now to join us by setting aside \$50.00 to participate in the ELCA's Good Gifts program for sending 30 goats from Grace to the world.

To purchase a goat: Place your cash or check (made payable to Grace Lutheran Church) in a Pew Envelope. Put your name and "Goat" on the envelope and put it in the offering plate. Be sure to take an ornament off the tree!

POINSETTIA SALE TO BENEFIT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ends today. 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.

JOIN US TODAY, 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? The program will be held in the Chapel starting at 2 p.m. followed by refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

THE COMBINED CHOIRS/SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will take place on Sunday, December 16 at the 9:30am service. The program is titled, "If I Were a Christmas Cookie.....". There is a dress rehearsal for participants on Saturday, December 15 from 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. We need four children this year for dress-up parts (3 angels, plus 1 child to carry the Christmas star.) If your child is interested in one of those parts, please see Connie Thomas.

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>

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!

LIVING LUTHERAN MAGAZINE RENEWAL TIME!

Do you currently subscribe to the monthly *Living Lutheran* magazine? Would you like to subscribe to a print version of the magazine? Please let the office know no later than Saturday, December 15th along with your payment of \$11.95. The parish will renew subscriptions and send in one payment for our group.

If you currently subscribe but wish to cancel, please let the office know that.

BLUE SERVICE (LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE)

The Prayer Ministry Team at Grace Lutheran Church invites you to attend our annual Blue Service on Friday, December 21 at 6:30pm in the Chapel. The Blue Service is an annual gift of the Prayer Team for any person of the community for whom the thought of Christmas festivities evokes feelings other than "tidings of comfort and joy". It is a service that is quiet and meditative, filled with candles, soft music and speaking of hope and comfort. It is a service for all those feeling overwhelmed in this season, for any reason.

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?

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!)

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO MINISTRIES OF ACOLYTING AND CROSS BEARING

Who may Acolyte? Who may carry the cross? Anyone with a heart to answer God's call to serve Him into providing the gift of worship. There are no upper age guidelines or, necessarily, any lower age guidelines. Guidelines are a decision as to whether or not a person has the capacity to light candles safely, to carry the cross safely, to demonstrate a willingness to step-in for other duties that may arise, and to be an example of managing oneself in a serving way that includes leading in offering the gifts of quiet, calm, attentiveness, and respectfulness. Of course we are willing to help coach and guide toward maturity in such things.

Have you served as an acolyte or cross-bearer in the past and are willing to continue in that ministry? Please contact the Grace Office. There is hope that Grace might offer to her servants the gift of a schedule.

Would you like to attend, or bring a younger person to attend, an acolyte training? There is one scheduled for Saturday, January 19 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Please contact the Church Office to register, or Pastor Al for questions.

Sunday, December 2

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Bob Haaf
<i>Lector:</i>	<i>Beth Cook</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	<i>Rick Sharp, Laura Rubley, Jim Bail, Karen Bail</i>
Fellowship Hosts:	Sue Melchert and Karen Weimer
Advent Wreath:	Rick and Cindy Wood, Milena and Jaylynn Slaybaugh

CHRISTMAS FUN FOR THE YOUNG will be held on Saturday, December 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Brenner Hall here at Grace. We'll have something to frost and decorate, and then eat! There will be a variety of Christmas crafts, activities and pictures taken to spread the Christmas cheer and the story of the Savior's birth. Please join us along with your young one for this outreach of Christmas fun and Jesus.

UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:

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)