

Ministry Announcements for the week of December 9, 2018

TODAY IN WORSHIP!

- ✝ Today is the Second Sunday of Advent.
- ✝ Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Larry Fleck and loved ones by Ann Fleck.
- ✝ Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Virginia Bail by Jim and Karen Bail..
- ✝ 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.

THE CALL OF THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has been active in the life of Christ's disciples who claim Grace as the ministry through which they serve God's world. Thus, dear folks known as Grace, **do give thanks to God and, to Marsha Schroeder**, for her service as President of Council, a Council member, and office volunteer. Marsha, sensing God's call to sabbatical in order to focus on what the Spirit is up to, has resigned from Council and from the Church Office. Thank you, Marsha! Thank you for allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you as you led us through the unseen task of needing to think through a financial theft. We would not be where we are today if you had not been open to God's call on your life. Bless you!

Also, lift up to God our sister in Christ, Beth Charvat, who upon the resignation of the President becomes President. As you pray for Beth: pray for Rick Sharp who has stepped into the role of Vice President of Administration; pray for Beth Cook, who is serving Grace in the term left open upon Marsha's resignation; for Cathy Holewinski who is serving Grace as the main office volunteer.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR IN BRENNER HALL TODAY!

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

INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Our Grace family is preparing to celebrate the anniversary of our Savior's birth. This year the Evangelism Committee is asking for help from everyone to make this event open to as many of His people as possible. At the conclusion of worship, committee members will be passing out cards you can use to invite your family, neighbors, friends and everyone else to celebrate with us here at Grace Church. Please take as many cards as you can use to extend the invitation to join us. This is a joyous occasion for our family to share with our loved ones and our community. Please help with this task.

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 9:15 to 11:15 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.

3 "IN HONOR OF YOU" GIFT IDEAS + 1 GOOD IDEA

- "In Honor of You" Gift Ideas
 - A Goat - \$50.00 (see the Christmas tree)
 - A new ELW hymnal - \$25.00 (see Beth Lohmann)
 - A debt reduction gift to GLC - \$____.____ (anything that will help reduce our \$23,000 Current Fund deficit)
- 1 Good Idea (If you are an Amazon Shopper?)
 - Copy and paste the following link into your browser, shop at *Amazon Smile*, and Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to GLC: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-0872428>

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 work 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!

UPDATE FROM LAUNCHPAD 4441!

G minus 9!

That's right 22 goats are on their way to bless the world! Thanks be to God!!

8 remain. Help Marty the Goat on his Advent quest to give Jesus an empty Christmas tree.



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!

NEEDED:

3 volunteers to usher at the 10:30pm Christmas Eve service. If the Holy Spirit moves you to serve in this capacity, please contact Marilyn Lohmann at 419-841-8160.

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.

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.

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild would love to have some new members on their committee. Help is needed with the setting up and cleaning up after communion, changing paraments, filling altar candles etc. If you would like to help on this committee, please contact Beth Lohmann at 419-873-5039.

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.

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.

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!)

UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:

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| 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) |

Sunday, December 9

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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| Assisting Minister: | Pete Cook |
| Advent Candle Lighting Reader: | Chuck & Beth Cook |
| Lector: | Wendy McCall |
| Gospel Reader & Preacher: | Nancy Lockard |
| Young Christians" Time Leader: | Bob Haaf |
| Intercessory Prayers: | Ron Hiatt |
| Ushers: | Rick Sharp, Laura Rubley, Jim Bail, Karen Bail |
| Fellowship Hosts: | Nancy Johnson and Debbie Johnson |