

Ministry Announcements for the week of December 16, 2018

TODAY IN WORSHIP!

- ✝ Today is the Second Sunday of Advent.
- ✝ Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Connie Thomas's Dad, Clarence Baumert at his December 19th birthday.
- ✝ 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 BRENNER HALL TODAY!

Everyone is invited to a cookie reception to share appreciation and fellowship in Brenner Hall after the service. Please join us!

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.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Once again OCC was a success at Grace Lutheran Church. With everyone's help, we were able to send 133 boxes on to Pilgrim where they were packed up to continue their journey. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible. A special thank you to our youth group for helping each year as we pack the boxes. Their assistance has been greatly appreciated.

Linda Mason for the Christian Education Committee.

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!

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.

PERSONAL NEEDS

We would like to ask the congregation for donations of laundry soap and toilet paper for the rest of December and January. Thank you.

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.

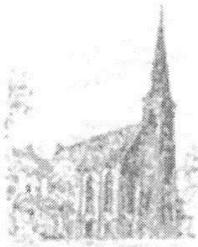
Would you like to attend, or bring a younger person to attend, an acolyte training? There is one scheduled for Saturday, January 19 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

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?

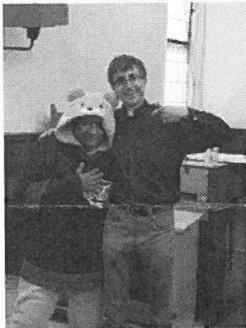
Salem Lutheran Church

1127 N. Huron St. Toledo, Ohio 43604-1952 // Phone 419-243-2345



Dear Friends in Christ,

We thank you for your continual support of Salem Lutheran Church and her mission in Toledo's North End, the area of Toledo that remains in the most economic need, a place where generational poverty has persisted. Through the help and support of congregations such as yours, we remain a mission and ministry site for the Northwestern Ohio Synod of the ELCA. Our work in this neighborhood is manifold. We witness to our faith by serving alongside of Christ in this neighborhood, one which many organizations and entities have seemingly abandoned. In addition to providing food and material needs, Salem has:



- Provided job training and experience for adults from our area
- Worked with others to build a park and greenspace
- Tutored, mentored, and expanded the horizons of young people
- Worked with other congregations to renovate houses
- Facilitated the giving of a home to a single mother
- Helped to keep low-income residents from being evicted for receiving Pell Grants for further education
- Provided safe, seasonal events for the people who live in our under-resourced neighborhood
- Supported sports programming and adult empowerment at our neighborhood community center, the Friendly Center

We thank you for continually joining us in doing this work, as we believe it to be a faithful following of our Lord Jesus Christ, not only in word but in deed and in truth. We thank God for your faith, we thank God for your discipleship and for assisting alongside of us and our neighbors, and we thank God for the Good News that has been given to us, which is that all are redeemed and loved by God's Grace, here and now and in the world to come.

In Gratitude,

Salem Lutheran Church

Epiphany - Light Up Our Home & Yours!

Christ, He is the light for all people! The Church around the world celebrates on January 6 that the Wisemen came to Jesus by the light of the star

On Sunday, January 6, you are invited to bring a candle (and, if necessary, a candle holder) from your home. We will set our candles on the same tables we use for healing services and we'll light up our Worship Spaces. Worship will include a prayer of blessing upon the folks whose homes the candles will be returning to.

Here's a thought: bring a candle for your home and for the homes of your loved ones. Give them a gift of light and prayers of hope as the new year begins.

And, if you are bringing a candle that has a story attached, feel free to type up a few lines for the bulletin to share the significance (e.g., Grandma's dinner table candle; a baptismal candle; etc).

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!)

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.

UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:

December 21	Blue Service at 6:30 p.m.
December 23	Advent 4 - Focus on Mary 9:30am 11:30am
December 24	Christmas Eve Services 3:00pm - Candlelight & Holy Communion 10:30pm - Chancel Choir & Hallelujah Chorus, Candlelight, and Holy Communion
December 25	Christmas Day 10:30am - Carols & Holy Communion
December 30	One Service at 10:30 a.m. - A Healing Service
January 6	Epiphany - Light Up Our Home & Yours 9:30am 11:30am
January 6	Epiphany
January 13	Baptism of Our Lord
Year 2020	Grace Lutheran's 120th Anniversary (Sept. 13, 2020)

Sunday, December 16

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	David O'Brien
Advent Candle Lighting Reader:	The Moore Family
Ushers:	Rick Sharp, Laura Rubley, Jim Bail, Karen Bail
Fellowship Hosts:	Mary Schneider & Cindy Wood