

**Ministry Announcements for the week of December 23, 2018**

**TODAY IN WORSHIP!**

- ✝ Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent.
- ✝ Chancel flowers are given by Rick & Cindy Wood in memory of Jamie Slaybaugh.
- ✝ Chancel flowers are given by Tony & Nancy Lockard in memory of Russ & Shirley MacKinnon. Also in honor of our mother, June Reinbolt; children, Andrew & Jennifer Lockard, Hannah Horner, and grandsons Lucas & Oliver.
- ✝ Chancel flowers for Christmas Eve are given by WELCA in honor of everyone.
- ✝ 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.

**ONE WORSHIP SERVICE NEXT WEEK**

Next Sunday, December 30, there will be one, combined worship service. The Healing Service will begin at 10:30am.

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR IN BRENNER HALL TODAY!**

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

**MANGER SET**

The new set of manger scene characters that has been building in our midst will be dedicated on Christmas Eve. The new set is given to the glory of God in loving memory of Ed Baranski, by Jean. Thank you, to Marilyn and Beth Lohmann for helping Jean procure the set.

**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.

**TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING AND IN YOUR GIVING PLEASE REMEMBER GRACE.**

Through the first 11 months of 2018 General Offerings made to Grace are running \$17,000 under what we received through the same time in 2017. There are a number of things that have contributed to this. Some are life events such as members who have passed onto the Church Triumphant, others are experiencing extended health challenges, or have relocated to other states. Giving for 2018 was also impacted early in the year due to tax law changes.

We are truly thankful for all the contributions we have received. For those members who are behind on your personal contributions to Grace, we ask you to try to catch up as we approach the end of the year. For all members I encourage each of us to Give Generously to Grace.

David Charvat – Grace Treasurer.

### **READING THE BIBLE IS ONE THING.**

Understanding the Bible is another. Our THURSDAY 10 a.m. BIBLE STUDY welcomes you as we begin a reading of EXODUS. Exodus is a key to the themes of the Old and New Testaments. God hears the cries of his people who suffer bondage in Egypt. God calls Moses from a burning bush and God sends Moses to bring His people out of bondage into freedom.

### **DID YOU MISS . . . ?**

*Oh Nuts! Oh My!; Grace Empowers Finishing; Grace Generously Pours & Mixes; Get the Stink Out; Measured by Gospel; Persistent Refiner; and updates from Marty the Goat out there on the Advent Road (Introducing Marty the Goat & the 2018 Advent Quest; Marty's First Stop; In a Question, Claim Promise; Rest in God's Promise; Wondering as I Wander; Don't Wait for They to Sing)?*

If so, that means one of three things: 1) The office does not have your email address, so you're not on the "e-mail blast" list; or, 2) Your email In-box has some neat stuff in it for you; or, 3) the address of office@gracelutherantoledo.org is being shunted to your junk mail folder.

Check it out! Make a change!!

### **PERSONAL NEEDS**

We would like to ask the congregation for donations of laundry soap and toilet paper for the rest of December and January. All items can be purchased at any dollar store. Thank you.

### **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 by 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.

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## **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!)

## **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.

## **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.



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**UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:**

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 23**

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Assisting Minister:	Cindy Wood
Advent Candle Lighting Reader:	Jim & Karen Bail
Lector:	Fritz Gooch
Ushers:	Rick Sharp, Laura Rubley, Jim Bail, Karen Bail
Fellowship Hosts:	Jan Dustman & Karlene Jaquillard

**Christmas Eve, 3:00pm**

Assisting Minister:	Peter Kramp
Advent Candle Lighting Readers:	Rick & Cindy Wood Milena and Jalyynn Slaybaugh
Readers:	Jacob, Mark, Aaron and Gene Weimer
Ushers:	Marsha Schroeder, Romeo Overman, Rick Wood, Jalyynn Slaybaugh

**Christmas Eve, 10:30pm**

Assisting Minister:	Beth Cook
Advent Candle Lighting Readers:	The Blood Family
Ushers:	Brian Lohmann, Bob Haaf, Chuck Cook, Grace Peterson