

**Ministry Announcements for the week of December 30, 2018**

**TODAY IN WORSHIP!**

- ✝ Altar flowers are given by Nancy & Debbie Johnson in memory of Harold Johnson Jr.
- ✝ Chancel flowers are given by Tony & Nancy Lockard.
- ✝ Thank you to our Prayer Team for all the extra effort today, and all the 5th Sundays, that you bless this community with in the ministry of providing Healing & Prayer Services.
- ✝ Today in worship, we'll install Gretchen Hiatt in the newly established Family Community Nurse Ministry
- ✝ 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 10:30 worship.

**NO COFFEE HOUR SUNDAY DECEMBER 30, 2018**

**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).

**FOR YOUR BRAND NEW CALENDAR - GRACE GETTIN' TOGETHER**

- Sunday January 27 - Semi-Annual Meeting
  - 10:00am (A gathering of meal, worship, and meeting all rolled into one. One worship service for the day.)
- Sunday, March 10 - Congregational Information-Sharing Day\*
- Sunday, May 19 - Semi-Annual Meeting
- Sunday, August 11 - Congregational Information-Sharing Day\*
- Sunday, October 13 - Congregational Information-Sharing Day\*

\*Congregation Information-Sharing Days are days Council has put on the calendar for the purpose of updating one another with information (e.g., ministries; financial reports; etc.). These are not intended to be one-way events from Council to the congregation. These are events for sharing information across Grace. So, if your ministry team is planning a kick-off on something, or an update - plan ahead to steward these dates well. These days may also offer a time of Q&A. (NOTE: These dates are not intended as Congregational Meetings, however, should we need to, they can be converted to Special Congrega-

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tional Meeting days per following the constitutional guidelines for holding a Special Meeting to address unforeseen decision/business purposes.)

## **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.

## **2019 IN NWO - THE YEAR OF SCRIPTURE**

Here's a thought: Resolving for the new year to make yourself open to the depths of God.

How?

Read Scripture - the whole bible in a year.

How?

Join Lutherans across Northwestern Ohio in a 3-fold focus

1. Bible Reading
2. Bible Reflection
3. Bible Study

How?

Participate in the Synod wide "Read Through the Bible in One Year".

- Daily Reading Schedule
  - Available in the back of the Worship Space, along with a few thoughts and additional resource recommendations from Bishop Daniel
- Small Group Focus
  - Create a small group of family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, wherever or however the Holy Spirit leads.
  - Connect with the weekly e-mail from the Synod Office (send a request to [info@nwos-elca.org](mailto:info@nwos-elca.org))

## **YOU'RE INVITED! (NO RSVP NECESSARY)**

### **4th Annual Multi-Faith Prayer Breakfast**

#### **Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition**

January 19, 2019 10am - 12pm

UAW Hall | 2300 Ashland Ave., Toledo

Keynote Speaker: Kylee Gregg, human trafficking survivor and thriver.

A light breakfast will be served. Please bring a hygiene item for local vic-

tims. For addition information, contact Amy LaGessee ([alagesse@lssnwo.org](mailto:alagesse@lssnwo.org)) or visit the LCHTC Facebook page.

## **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.

**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.

## **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.

**UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:**

January 6            Epiphany - Light Up Our Home & Yours  
                              9:30am  
                              11:30am  
January 13            Baptism of Our Lord  
January 27            Semi Annual Meeting  
                              10:00am  
Year 2020            Grace Lutheran's 120th Anniversary (Sept. 13, 2020)

**Sunday, December 30**

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Assisting Minister:	Fritz Gooch
Lector:	Peter Kramp
Ushers:	Rick Sharp, Laura Rubley, Jim Bail, Karen Bail
Fellowship Hosts:	No Coffee Hour