

Receiving Christ Continually as God's People through Word and Sacrament



Grace Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Spotlighter - January 12

Our Mission Statement
Sharing **GRACE**

Growing in God's word, Reaching out with love Announcing forgiveness, Calling the lost, Encouraging everyone

Visit Our Website

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

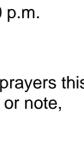
Lessons for this coming Sunday:

- Second Sunday after the Epiphany**
1 Samuel 3:1-20
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS John 2:5 - His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." "What must Mary have thought when Jesus replied, "What does this have to do with Me?" But she knew this: whatever her Son said to do would be a blessing, so she knows what advice to give to the servants: Do whatever He tells you! That's still good advice for us in every aspect of our lives - including in our generosity toward the Lord's work in the Church.

PRAYER REQUESTS Melissa Netkowski, Shirley Gray, Mike Stark, Steve Lindstrom, Gordon Marner, and Vi Koehler.

ALTAR FLOWERS Check the flower for chart on the hallway bulletin board to sign up for the flowers for the Altar. Flowers are \$30.00 and make a beautiful addition to our Altar area. Place them for a special date or just because. Put in the offering plate and mark it flowers or pay in the office.

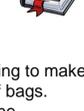


NOTICES

- The Trustees meets Tuesday, January 16 at 6:30 p.m.
- The Board of Christian Life meets Tuesday, January 16 at 7:00 p.m.
- Join us for God, Grub, Games at Grace on Friday, January 19 at 6:00 p.m.
- Grace Your Closet is open on Saturday, January 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Voter's meeting will be on Sunday January 28, immediately following Pastor's abbreviated bible study.
- E-Board will meet on Tuesday January 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER In our thoughts and prayers this week is Margaret Barber. If you wish to send her a card or note, her address is 230 W. Elm St., Auburn.

THURSDAY A.M. FRIENDS Please join us for games, fellowship and lunch on January 25 at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m



MONDAY A.M. BIBLE CLASS The new bible study starting on January 15th at 10:00 am in the Common Room is "Lost Books?" Please come and join us.

HOME BIBLE STUDY The next Sunday evening home Bible Study will meet on January 21 at the home of Gordy and Fay Schroeder, 319 Short St. beginning at 6:30 p.m.



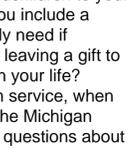
PLASTIC BAGS NEEDED The Ladies of Grace are going to make plastic mats for the homeless in March. We need lots of bags. Please bring them in and put them in the basket under the credenza.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE Our next community blood drive is at Auburn United Methodist Church, 207 Auburn St., January 16 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please give blood.



G4 SPECIAL BIBLE NIGHT TRIVIA NIGHT Save the date! On Friday, January 19, we have our next G4 (God, Grub, and Games @ Grace) Night! There will be a meal served from 6 to 6:45 pm and then we'll have our special program. Tom Wegener will lead the adults in Bible Trivia in the library and pastor will play games with the youths in the gym. All are welcome! We do need a few volunteers to help serve food. Please contact Kim Herbolsheimer or Annette Rudick if you can help.

QUILTING RESUMES In January, we start our quilting for the new year. We will be having 2 sessions per month in 2018. Volunteers may come to one or both as they feel they are able. We will be working on the 2nd and 3rd Mondays of each month as the schedule permits - January through September. This January, our dates are the 8th and the 15th. We will again be working from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. We continue to meet at the Gengler home at 1625 Wilder Rd. Bring a sack lunch and willing hands and hearts. No previous experience is needed as we have all kinds of tasks to perform, and most can be easily learned. We have handicapped access to everything if you need it.

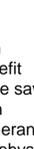


ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR I wrote my will! My living trust was done years ago! But is it covered in dust? Does it still accomplish what you want? Life Happens!! What events have happened in your life that could impact your plan? How have the tax laws changed? Has God added any new grandchildren to your family? What about a Christian Preamble? Did you include a Disaster Clause? What information does my family need if something happens to me? Have you considered leaving a gift to the ministries that have had the greatest impact on your life? Join us next Sunday, January 21, after the 9:00am service, when Bill Burmeister, the Gift Planning Counselor from the Michigan District Church Extension Fund, will answer many questions about an important area of Christian Stewardship, estate planning. The seminar will examine when you should revisit your will or trust, what we can do to make life easier for our families when God calls us home and discuss ideas to support our family while creating a lasting legacy. **PLEASE NOTE:** This seminar was planned last August before any talk or decision on having Bible study every Sunday after the Divine Service. Since we encourage all to attend the seminar, there will be no Bible study after the Divine Service on January 21 BUT there is a Bible study that night on the parables at Gordy and Fay Schroeder's home which begins at 6:30pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk with pastor. Let's put the best construction on everything.

GRACE YOUR CLOSET As a reminder, Grace Your Closet will be sorting clothes on Monday, January 15. We're also in need of 6-8 volunteers for our opening on Saturday, January 20 from 10 - 1. There's a variety of jobs available including checking customers in and out, bagging their items, tidying up the closet as they go through, and sorting clothes. If you're able to help us out, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Thank you in advance!

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE This Sunday you will find in your mailbox a monthly newsletter and a flyer and donation envelope highlighting the ministry of Lutherans for Life (LFL), a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. As we make plans to celebrate Life Sunday on January 21, we remember this organization that faithfully develops and provides materials for pastors, congregations, and individuals on the life issues including regional and national conferences to equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices for LIFE. Their national hot line Word of Hope (888-217-8679) provides help and healing for those who have had an abortion. A display table in the narthex will be available the next three weeks with their information to share on abortion healing, end of life decisions, how to talk with our children on purity and life issues, living together, and more. This ministry is supported entirely by individual donations and would appreciate your help. Please check out this information and learn more about God's gift of life, both physical and eternal. You can mail in your donation to the address on the envelope or place it in the collection plate. If you have any questions about Lutherans for Life or the life issues contact Jean Peters at 989-652-5433. Also available will be information on another life issue, human trafficking, and how to recognize it in our communities. For questions on this contact Teresa Yaeger at 989-327-1779.

LIFE SUNDAY CELEBRATION AND BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG Life Sunday Celebration and Baby Bottle Boomerang On January 21 we will again celebrate Life Sunday at Grace remembering that the lives of all, born and unborn, young and old, terminally ill, handicapped or mentally challenged, are all precious in God's sight and in need of our support. In service to the unborn in our community and our local pregnancy resource center, we will again be handing out baby bottles on that Sunday. These bottles can be filled with bills, coins, or checks to support the life saving, Christian ministry of Beacon of Hope, the local pregnancy resource center that counsels, supports, and encourages families to CHOOSE LIFE for their unborn child. The baby bottles will be collected over the next 2 weeks until February 4 in a flannel ladybug box on the LIFE display table in the narthex. Beacon of Hope continues to provide hope to families in crisis pregnancy situations and serves as a mission field in our own back yard as they share the love of Christ with these families. Please keep them in your prayers as their ministry saves lives for here and eternity.



2018 WOMEN'S RETREAT - STEPPIN' OUT IN FAITH The retreat is being held at The Springs Camp, 1950 N. M-30, Gladwin on March 2, 3, & 4th. The cost is \$145.00 for the whole weekend. The main speaker is Emily Kast. This is a great opportunity to take some uninterrupted time to dig into Scripture to see where God is leading you! A Refreshing break from the winter to re-energize in God's word. Deposit is due ASAP, final deposit due February 4. Registration forms are available in the church office. Any questions about the retreat call Lisa Bale at 989-497-9774.

VLHS BENEFIT DINNER AND AUCTION It's Valley's 40th Anniversary Year & 15th Anniversary Year of our VLHS Benefit Dinner & Auction! Our Theme is "Caribbean Nights." Please save the date for Saturday, February 24, 2018, at Apple Mountain Conference Center. Your support has impacted Valley Lutheran with improvements in programs, equipment, transportation, physical school improvements, and most importantly STUDENT AID. Thank you for your past support of VLHS! We could use your help again - we are asking for items to be donated and put up for bid (merchandise, tickets, services, vacation homes, gift cards, etc.). There are also opportunities to participate by way of prayer, advertising, sponsorship, or attending the auction. Click on our auction link www.vlhsauction.com for more information and check out our often-updated list of items. Watch your bulletin and/or church message board for registration brochures. For further information or questions, you may call Valley Lutheran at 790-1676, Beth (Lambert) Kaul 989-754-5918 bkaul@vlhs.com or Karrie Gatzka 989-415-6776 Karriekookies@aol.com.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Valley Lutheran High School is seeking a teacher to teach in and provide leadership for the theology department and the spiritual development of the school family. The ability to lead an extra-curricular activity is also desirable. The ideal candidate will be an ordained or commissioned minister of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod with interest and experience planning and teaching lessons. The position begins August 1, 2018. Applicants may send a resume' with references and a cover letter to Dr. John Brandt, Valley Lutheran High School, 3560 McCarty, Saginaw MI 48603 or by e-mail at jbrandt@vlhs.com. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. For further information call Dr. Brandt at 989-790-1676.



GRACE AT PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY 2

Invocation

In the Name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

Verses of the Week: Psalm 20:1

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

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| January 15 Psalm 29 | Ezekiel 37:15-28 | Romans 6:1-23 |
| January 16 Psalm 36 | Ezekiel 38:1-23 | Romans 7:1-20 |
| January 17 Psalm 137 | Ezekiel 39:1-29 | Romans 7:21-8:17 |
| January 18 Psalm 44 | Ezekiel 40:1-43:12 | Romans 8:18-39 |
| January 19 Psalm 15 | Ezekiel 44:1-29 | Romans 9:1-18 |
| January 20 Psalm 117 | Ezekiel 47:1-23 | Romans 9:19-33 |
| January 21 Psalm 20 | Joel 1:1-20 | Romans 10:1-21 |

Writing from the Lutheran Confessions

The preacher's planting and watering and the hearer's running and hearing would both be in vain and no conversion would follow it if the power and effectiveness of the Holy Spirit were not added [1 Corinthians 3:6-7]. The Spirit enlightens and converts hearts through the Word preached and heard. So people believe this Word and agree with it. Neither preacher nor hearer is to doubt this grace and effectiveness of the Holy Spirit. They should be certain that when God's Word is preached purely and truly, according to God's command and will, and people listen attentively and seriously and meditate on it, God is certainly present with His grace. [Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article II:55]

The Lord's Prayer

Collect for Week of the Second Sunday after Epiphany

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- Sunday:** Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.
Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for Lutheran schools [especially Zion Beaver and Trinity Monitor] and her teachers; for good government and for peace.
Tuesday: Pray for the Church and her pastors, teachers, musicians, missionaries, and deaconesses.
Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
Thursday: Pray for repentant hearts, that all would confess their sins and seek our Lord and His forgiveness in the Word and Sacraments.
Friday: Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.
Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

In Our Prayers this Week:

- The sick, shut-in, and suffering.
- The families of our loved ones in the Armed Forces.
- Growth for Grace Lutheran Church.
- Steadfastness for Christians persecuted throughout the world.
- Unity among the mid-Michigan congregations in caring for the poor.
- God's use of Grace Your Closet to clothe families.
- Wisdom to put the best construction on everything.
- Peace to all the families affected by the CA mudslides.
- Opportunities to share the Gospel with family and friends.

Luther's Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Benedicamus

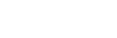
Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



The Lutheran Hour
 Radio: Sunday morning on
 WSAM-AM 1400
 from 8:30 - 9:00 A.M.
 Internet: lutheranhour.org

Grace Lutheran Church | 989-662-6161 | office.graceauburn@gmail.com | www.graceauburn.org

STAY CONNECTED:



Grace Lutheran Church, 303 W. Ruth St., Auburn, MI 48611

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