
January 2018

Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church

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From the Pastor's Desk . . .

January is the time of year for **New Year's Resolutions**. People pick something about themselves that they'd like to change or improve, and then they resolve to try and stick to it during the coming months. This includes things like lose weight, exercise more, take a big vacation, read more good books, get organized, pray more, laugh more, etc. What resolution(s) did YOU make for 2018?

It's easy to make these resolutions, because we all have weaknesses and shortcomings we need to work on. And a New Year - after all the traveling, partying, and heavy eating of the holidays - is a perfect time to start working on a "new you." We ALL need improvement. Yet what the health experts say is that when it comes to New Year's Resolutions it's good to try and keep them realistic. Instead of improving EVERYTHING in EVERY area of your life, you start by working on one or two.

So what resolution(s) did you make for 2018? What resolution SHOULD you make for 2018?!?

To take this one step farther, what should our New Year's Resolution be around here at Grace? What one or two things do we need to work on? Where is it most important for us to show improvement in 2018?

While it's certainly very easy to MAKE New Year's Resolutions each year, it's a very hard thing to actually KEEP them - which is why so few people do. Our sinful nature likes to make excuses, get distracted, get sick, get lazy, and just get out of doing what we know we should be doing. (Sort of like trying to put a 4 year old to bed on time...they have all sorts of creative excuses to delay or not do what they should.)

And that's why we need Jesus and His grace. Left to ourselves we will fall short. Left to ourselves we can find ourselves endlessly preoccupied with our weaknesses and how we fall short. But Christ comes and gives us new life (John 10). He fills us with His grace and goodness (Ephesians 4). He reminds us of the good things He has blessed us with (James 1). He restores our souls (Psalm 23) and transforms us by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12).

As we begin the New Year what we really need most is more Jesus in our lives.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

December Official Pastoral Acts:

- 4 sick/shut-in visits
- 3 private communions
- 3 pastoral care visits
- 1 leadership meeting
- 1 baptism (*Daniel Bremke*)

Pastor Josh and his family would like to thank the congregation for their exceedingly generous and kind Christmas gift. Your warm-hearted display of thoughtfulness and affection is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

The **Sunday morning Adult Bible Class** will resume meeting AFTER worship starting on January 7th. Join us as we continue studying the **Augsburg Confession** – a document of historical, theological, and practical significance for us.

Looking ahead...

- The regular **February Voters' Meeting** will be on the 18th following worship, with Voters' Meeting packets due out February 4th.
- At the Feb. meeting we will need to select and elect a **delegate** and **alternate delegate** for the district convention June 19-21 at Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Consider whether you might be willing to go on behalf of our congregation.

Thank you to all those who helped set up and take down the Christmas decorations this year. The sanctuary looked beautiful – especially with the extra poinsettias. Thank you to the altar guild ladies (and helpers) who put in extra time with all the extra services. A special thanks to our faithful, young readers on Christmas Eve who did a lovely job.

The church needs **ushers, readers, and acolytes** to serve for the year 2018. If interested please contact Dale Rider by email (drthedriver@gmail.com) or phone (440-409-3445) this month so that he can put together a schedule for the year. Thank you for your willingness to serve God in this way.

Volunteers needed:

- We are in need of someone with some photography ability to take some pictures of our church to put up on our new church website.
- We are also in need of someone with computer capabilities who could assemble and send out our monthly newsletter.
- We are in need of volunteers to help deliver boxes of food to those in need on the third Tuesday of each month, from roughly 2-3 pm.

If you might be interested please talk to Pastor Josh.

January Birthdays

Becky Folley	1/07
Ron Mertz	1/08
Paul Koch	1/11
Isabella Kovach	1/12
Bonnie Abicht	1/19
Tina Brandes	1/19
Joyce Lamont	1/31

January Anniversaries

Chris & Rachel Koch 1/22

* If we accidentally forgot your birthday or anniversary, please tell Pastor and we'll add it to our list.

From the President

Welcome to the New Year! I hope everyone had a joyous season celebrating the birth of our Lord. I want to thank everyone for their support by giving me the opportunity to serve our Congregation. I look forward to working together as we travel the path to a closer relationship with God and each other.

Treasurer's Report

Recap of Grace 2017 finances:

2017 INCOME	\$ 94,873.00
THRIVENT – CHOICE DOLLARS	\$ 5,785.00
HOLMES - L.C.E.F. INTEREST	\$ 77.00
LUIKART - THRIVENT S FUND INTEREST	\$ 1,193.00
LUIKART - THRIVENT DEPOSIT INTEREST	\$ 1,896.00
LUIKART - L.C.M.S. FOUNDATION INTEREST	\$ 5,938.00

2017 EXPENSES \$ 107,368.00

Women's League News

Coffee Fellowship for January:

- 7 Bonnie Abicht
- 14 Donna Perron
- 21 Sue Walker
- 28 Robin Turnbull

The LWL Mitten Tree 'grew' 4 ear warmers, 3 pair men's gloves, 4 pair women's gloves, 2 pair men's hats, 1 adult scarf and hat set, 3 adult hat and gloves set, 6 infant hats, 2 pairs infant gloves, 11 pairs children gloves, 2 children hats and 2 adult scarves that were then taken to the Oberlin Community Center to be distributed to families in the area. They were very grateful for our generosity in meeting the needs of others.

We continue to host the free Community Hot Meal the 3rd Saturday of each month. Our guests appreciate our meal and it is a chance for us to meet new people in the neighborhood. There are 4 open months (February, May, November, December) needed for hosting this outreach program we sponsor. Please sign up to volunteer. If you prefer not to be the hostess, helping serve the meal is always appreciated. And asking someone to assist you is another possibility.

Carolyn Husted and Norma Stechow will serve the January Community Hot meal. A big thank you to Rosie Lengyel for providing the Sloppy Joes for the December meal.

The 2018 signup sheets for flowers, oil and bulletins are posted on the bulletin board. Lots of spaces available!

The Women's Breakfast group will meet on Thursday, January 25 at 9:30 at the Oberlin Diner on South Main Street. All women from the congregation are invited.

Grace Classifieds:

- Scott and Bev Dorrance have a lovely, warm winter **blanket** that they'd like to give to anyone who might need or appreciate it. If you'd be interested, please talk to Pastor.

- Ohioans Home Healthcare has donated (through Kathy Koepp) a bunch of FREE **ice scrapers**, **Sudoku** puzzles, and **crossword** puzzles for seniors. They are available in the Jake Luikart Fellowship Hall on the table next to the FREE blue Grace Lutheran Church tote bags. Help yourself.

Daily Bible Readings

Jan. 1	- Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Feb. 1	- Psalm 19
Jan. 2	- Isaiah 54	Feb. 2	- Psalm 20-21
Jan. 3	- Isaiah 55	Feb. 3	- Psalm 22
Jan. 4	- Isaiah 56-57	Feb. 4	- Psalm 23
Jan. 5	- Isaiah 58	Feb. 5	- Psalm 24
Jan. 6	- Isaiah 59	Feb. 6	- Psalm 25-26
Jan. 7	- Isaiah 60:1-9	Feb. 7	- Psalm 27-28
Jan. 8	- Isaiah 60:10-22	Feb. 8	- Psalm 29-30
Jan. 9	- Isaiah 61	Feb. 9	- Psalm 31
Jan. 10	- Isaiah 62	Feb. 10	- Psalm 32-33
Jan. 11	- Isaiah 63	Feb. 11	- Psalm 34
Jan. 12	- Isaiah 64	Feb. 12	- Psalm 35-36
Jan. 13	- Isaiah 65:1-16	Feb. 13	- Joel 1
Jan. 14	- Isaiah 65:17-25	Feb. 14	- Joel 2:1-17
Jan. 15	- Isaiah 66	Feb. 15	- Joel 2:18-32
Jan. 16	- Psalm 1	Feb. 16	- Joel 3
Jan. 17	- Psalm 2	Feb. 17	- Psalm 37
Jan. 18	- Psalm 3-4	Feb. 18	- Psalm 38
Jan. 19	- Psalm 5-6	Feb. 19	- Psalm 39
Jan. 20	- Psalm 7	Feb. 20	- Psalm 40-41
Jan. 21	- Psalm 8	Feb. 21	- Psalm 42
Jan. 22	- Psalm 9	Feb. 22	- Psalm 43-44
Jan. 23	- Psalm 10	Feb. 23	- Psalm 45-47
Jan. 24	- Psalm 11-12	Feb. 24	- Psalm 48-49
Jan. 25	- Psalm 13	Feb. 25	- Psalm 50
Jan. 26	- Psalm 14	Feb. 26	- Psalm 51-53
Jan. 27	- Psalm 15	Feb. 27	- Psalm 54-55
Jan. 28	- Psalm 16	Feb. 28	- Psalm 56
Jan. 29	- Psalm 17		
Jan. 30	- Psalm 18:1-24		
Jan. 31	- Psalm 18:25-50		

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3	4 • Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm	5	6
7 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	8 • Council's Meeting 7 pm	9 • Confirmation 7 pm	10	11	12	13
14 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	15	16 • Elder's Meeting 4 pm • Confirmation 7 pm	17	18 • Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm	19	20 • Free Hot Meal 5 pm
21 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	22 • Finance Team Meeting 7 pm	23 • Confirmation 7 pm	24	25 • Women's Break-fast at Oberlin Kitchen Diner @ 9:30 am	26	27
28 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	29	30 • Confirmation 7 pm	31			

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm
- Feb. 18: Voter's Meeting