

News & Announcements

THIS WEEK'S ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Tim & Vickie Huston in honor of their 30th wedding anniversary.

MILITARY BIBLE STICKS

There is a special outreach to the military. \$25 purchases a rugged military grade mp3 player with the ESV New Testament for one of our troops in the field or at the VA, and CDs and Kid's CDs for their family at home. Speak with Russell for more info. Nearly 800,000 have been sent out to the field already. **Funds will now be matched through December 29 to double the gift of God's Word for the troops.**

A NOTE OF THANKS to everyone who donated gifts to the angel tree families and Christmas baskets. You have made many people very happy who would have otherwise had bare trees this year. Thanks also for the support of the troops through the Bible Sticks. What better time to get the word of God into the ears of those in harms way.

FOREST PARK LUMINARIAS The 21st annual Forest Park Luminaria Festival will begin on Sun., Dec. 23rd at 5:30 PM until they go out. Drive through or walk the neighborhood (Hawthorne, Grove Parkway, and Woodland Parkway – between Rocky Ford and Hwy. 31). Stop by the Armstrong's, 3389 Woodland Parkway, for warm beverage and "nibbles".

IFC @ GRACE Are you interested in meeting new people? How about learning customs and traditions from other countries? If this sounds like something you may be interested in or would like to learn more about, then volunteering with the **International Friendship Center at Grace** is a fit for you. We are looking for volunteers two Friday mornings a month from 9:30-11:00. Watch for the next English Conversation Group meeting in January and we would love to have your help. Please come and check



THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, December 23

Divine Service ~ 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Adult Education ~ 9:30 a.m.

Children's Sunday School ~ 9:30 a.m.

Forest Park Luminaries ~ 5:30 p.m.

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service ~ 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Late Service ~ 11:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25 Christmas

Office Closed

Wednesday, December 26

Thursday, December 27

Friday, December 28

Saturday, December 29

Sunday, December 30

Divine Service ~ 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Adult Education ~ 9:30 a.m.

Children's Sunday School ~ 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Caroling ~ 2:00 p.m.

it out or if you have any questions speak with Harriet Armstrong, Candace Clancy or Missy Snyder.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING Come and enjoy the Christmas season on Sun., Dec. 30 at 2 PM as we carol within the community! A soup supper will follow. Dress warm even though we will be driving from one location to another.

THE FLOWER CHART is now on the counter in the new welcome area. Please help beautify our Worship by signing up to provide flowers for a Sunday in 2019. The cost is \$45. You are free to take the flowers home with you after the 2nd service. Or, if you like, you may leave them to be distributed to our shut-ins.

Our Family Matters

**December 23
2018**

Grace Lutheran Church, 3201 Central Avenue, Columbus, IN 47203 812-372-4859
<http://www.gracecolumbus.org> ~ office@gracecolumbus.org

HOLIDAY SERVICES

**Christmas Eve Service,
Tomorrow, 6:30 pm**

**Christmas Eve Late Service
w/Holy Communion,
Tomorrow, 11:00 pm**

**New Year's Eve Service,
w/Holy Communion,
December 31, 6:30 pm**



THE ALPHA COURSE

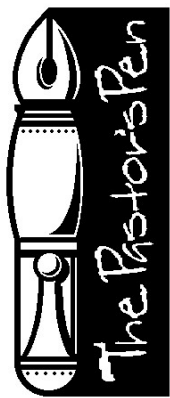
TUESDAYS, 6:00 P.M.
STARTING JANUARY 8

SEARCHING SCRIPTURE

TUESDAYS, 6:00 P.M.
STARTING JANUARY 15

We are beginning the new sessions of The Alpha Course and Searching Scripture. This is a great time to bring your family, friends and co-workers to the class. Invite them to learn about the fundamentals of Christianity: Alpha, Tuesday, January 8, 6:00-7:30; Searching Scripture, beginning the following week. You are the door through which people enter Grace.

**"Christ-centered worship, proclaiming the Gospel,
and nurturing all into God's family."**



What is Holy Baptism?

Baptism is not something you do for God but something God does for you, as Holy Scripture declares:

“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing of water through the Word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any blemish, but holy and blameless.” (Ephesians 5:25-27)



Can infants believe?

Consider the following passages:

⁹ Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.

¹⁰ From birth I was cast on you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.
Psalms 22:9,10

¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15

Human opinion may deny that infants can believe, but Scripture tells us they can. Which do you accept? Faith is always a miracle of God in the heart, whether it is the heart of an infant or an adult (Luke 1:41, 44; Acts 16:14). God does it all! Isn't God wonderful?

We have 10 more households to invite to Grace this year.

2018 is the fifty-fifth anniversary of our Indiana District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In recognition of this, we will invite 55 households and/or individuals to worship this year. The world needs the Gospel, including our many unchurched neighbors, coworkers and classmates. The cults (Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, etc.) are busy in your neighborhood! Even in Christian churches the Gospel is being distorted, obscured by legalism and self-chosen works in order to gain favor with God. You may invite the same individuals you invited last year (most don't come unless invited several times), or new individuals whom you have yet to invite

Who could I invite?

- **My next door neighbor who doesn't attend church;**
- **My students;**
- **My server...**

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MEN'S BIBLE STUDY If you would like to become a part of the regular bi-weekly prayer and Bible study meetings drop by the West Wing on Wednesday, December 19, 6:30-7:30 am. Call Lester Peters or Ed Probst.

GRACE FOUNDATION GRANTS Grace Lutheran Church Foundation is accepting grant requests. Application forms are available in the church office. Please contact a Foundation Board member if you have any questions.

MISSION MOMENT Advent offerings this year will be divided between local and distant missions. The local portion will be given to Pregnancy Care Center (Clarity) and Love Chapel. The remainder will be sent for the work of Tom and Debbie Going, missionaries to Japan.

SOUND TEACHING

TITUS 2:1

ADULT EDUCATION classes for the new year are the following:

“Comfort for Christians” In this study you will learn how through His Word God comforts you, builds you up, and equips you to reach out to others, who are lost, lonely, troubled, or grieving. Led by Tim Moses.

“Driven Heroes of the Faith” The “Heroes of the Faith” series highlights men and women in the Bible who overcame extraordinary difficulties. Their stories show that God chooses ordinary people – people like you – to do his work. Heroes included in this study: *Ruth, Samuel, Jeremiah, Solomon, Lydia, and Timothy.* Led by Candy Clancy.

“Wurmbrand” This six-session video class is based on the lives of Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand. Be inspired by the examples of the Wurmbrands and other persecuted believers as you learn to love and forgive your enemies and become bold witnesses for Christ. Leaders: Cheryl Harris and Tina Fitch

“East Wing Adult Bible Study” for parents of young families. The study digs deeper into the weekly children's Bible story.

ISSUES ETC. SCHEDULE We encourage you to continue to listen to “Issues, Etc.” each Sunday at noon, AM 1010, WCSI, sponsored by Grace Lutheran.

Dec 23rd

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” Dr Art Just

A MOBILE LUTHERAN BIBLE STUDY...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Birth of John the Baptist, The Book of Obadiah, Thy Kingdom Come, The Apostle Thomas, Ahab Steals Naboth's Vineyard and more. Listen anytime at www.issuesetc.org or on the LPR mobile app.