

## News & Announcements

**THIS WEEK'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God by Jan Barnett in memory of the Sparks family.

**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.

**PASTOR ON VACATION** Pastor Armstrong is on vacation January 1-8. If you have an emergency please call the church 812-372-4859, your elder (Paul Finke, head elder 812-372-1905) or Rev. Ben Lorenz(812-603-7651).

**WIDOW'S WALK** Widow's Walk meets the first Monday of the month at a local restaurant for lunch, a devotion and the support we can give each other. R.S.V.P at 812-378-2075.

**A NOTE OF THANKS** to everyone who sang and helped with the Christmas services, especially to Stephen Smith and Elizabeth for all the extra work organizing and leading the group. You all brought a truly joyful noise into our Christmas celebrations.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Or, if you like, you may leave them to be distributed to our shut-ins.

**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 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.

Monday, December 31

**New Year's Eve Service ~ 6:30 p.m.**

Tuesday, January 1 New Year's Day

Office Closed

Wednesday, January 2

Men's Bible Study ~ 6:30-7:30 a.m.

Thursday, January 3

Elder Meeting ~ 5:30 p.m.

Friday, January 4

Saturday, January 5

Sunday, January 6 Epiphany

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

Adult Education ~ 9:30 a.m.

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

Youth Confirmation ~ 5:45 p.m.

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

**MISSION MOMENT** Advent offerings this year have been 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.

**PRAYER PARTNERS** Our young adults face many challenges to their faith. If you would be willing to pray for one of our young adults on a daily basis, please contact Tammy Mocas. (tamaramocas@comcast.com, 812-342-3459).

# Our Family Matters

**December 30  
2018**

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

## THE ALPHA COURSE TUESDAYS, 5:50 P.M. STARTING JANUARY 8

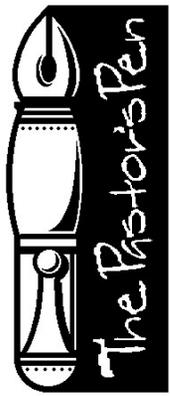
## SEARCHING SCRIPTURE TUESDAYS, 5:50 P.M. STARTING JANUARY 15

**W**e 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 at 6:00 pm; Searching Scripture, beginning the following week. You are the door through which people enter Grace.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP TOMORROW NIGHT, 6:30 P.M.

**J**oin us this evening as we celebrate the many blessings of the past year, and God's promise in the year to come. Grace's New Year's Eve Service will begin at 6:30 pm with the preaching of the Good News of the coming of Christ. Service will conclude with Holy Communion where Christ will give us His sin-forgiving Body and Blood. Invite someone to join you.

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



# Christmas is a season

Christmas is more than a day.

It is a season of hearing and singing of the great miracle of the incarnation of God, even as Easter is a season of celebration of the great miracle of the resurrection of our Lord.

The church has long known that these mighty works of God merit more than a single day on the calendar.

Christmastide or the season of Christmas, begins on December 25 and continues for twelve days through January 5 ("Twelfth Night").

In 567, the Council of Tours proclaimed the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany as a sacred and festive season, and established the duty of Advent fasting as necessary preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

In the medieval era, Christmastide lasted from December 25 to the Feast of Purification of Mary (February 2), which was forty days after her giving birth to our Lord.

What matters most is not the length of the season but the point of our celebration—God so loved this world of rebels that He took upon Himself our flesh and blood in order to suffer and die in our place!

Praise God for His mercy in Christ, and a blessed Christmas season to you!



We have 2 more households to invite to Grace this year. Why not invite someone to the New Year's Eve service!

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 unmet neighbor who might not attend church;
- My co-worker;
- My Christmas season guests...

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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.

## SOUND TEACHING

TITUS 2:1

**ADULT EDUCATION** classes for the new year will be 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 Wurmbands 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 31<sup>st</sup>

*The New Year from the Perspective of the Old Testament* Dr Ken Schrub

Jan 6<sup>th</sup>

*The Circumcision and Name of Jesus*  
Dr Art Just

**A MOBILE LUTHERAN BIBLE STUDY...Issues, Etc.** is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Listen anytime at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) or on the LPR mobile app.