



# Grace Newsletter

## December 2017

### Available Bible Studies—

#### Sunday Mornings:

**Goliath Must Fall: Winning the Battle Against Your Giants led by Amy Hubach.** It's likely you have a threatening giant in your life...an adversary or stronghold that's diminishing your ability to live a full and free life. Frozen in the grip of rejection, fear, anger, comfort, or addiction, we lose sight of the promise God has for our lives. Demoralized and defeated, we settle for far less than his best. God has a better plan for you, a plan for you to live in victory. That's why he has silenced your giant once and for all. In Goliath Must Fall, Pastor Louie Giglio uncovers a newfound twist in the classic story of David and Goliath. The key to living free from our giants is not better slingshot accuracy, but keeping our eyes on the one and only giant-slayer—Jesus. Put your hope in him and watch Goliath fall.

**That the World May Know led by Pastor Brooks** - Travel to Israel and radically change your understanding of the Scriptures. Wet your feet in the Jordan River and impact the culture with life-giving water. Show your trust in the Lord's provision by offering up first fruits at Jericho. And cleanse the land by confronting evil and using the tools of society to redeem your world for God. In this first volume of the That the World May Know series, historian and teacher Ray Vander Laan will show you how God guided his people to a specific place - the Promised Land - to impact the world both in ancient times and today. Experience the Bible in historical context! Study led by Pastor Brooks

#### Wednesday Mornings:

**"Seeing the Christ in Genesis" led by Pastor Brooks.** From 10:30 to Noon Pastor Brooks will guide you in discovering how God foreshadowed the work of our Savior from the very beginning of Creation.

#### Thursday Evenings:

**The Book of Acts led by Mark Elli.** A men's bible study on the 1st and 3rd Thursday starting at 6:30 p.m. Please call Mark if you are interested in attending (208) 514-8907.

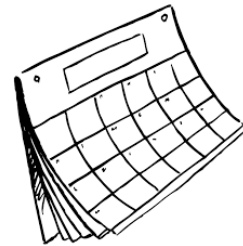
#### Tuesday Evenings (begins January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018):

**"When God Doesn't Fix It: Lessons You Never Wanted to Learn, Truths You Can't Live Without" by Laura Story, led by Donna Steiger.** A women's Bible Study that will start a new five week session meeting at Donna Steiger's at 7:00 p.m.



### 2018 Calendars—

**Flahiff Funeral Chapel** has donated several 2018 calendars. They are located in the entry way on the counter.

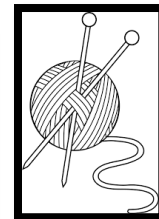
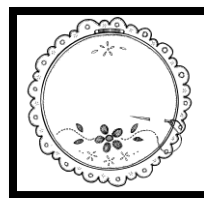


### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Calendars—

The calendars will be ordered December 1 and should arrive here at the church by the 15<sup>th</sup>. You can pick them up at church on Sunday, the 17<sup>th</sup>. If you have not yet paid for your calendar please make a check out to the church for \$13 and note "75<sup>th</sup> calendar" in the memo line or the office will accept cash.

### ATTENTION Crafters—

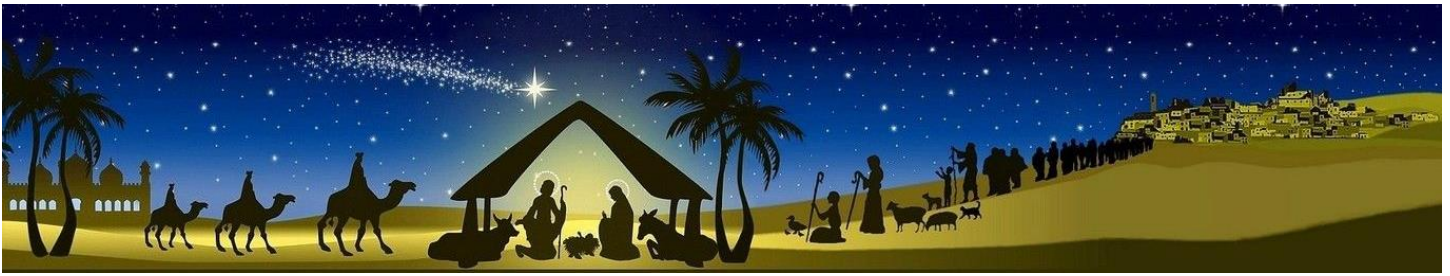
Do you have a craft, crochet, knitting, cross-stitch, embroidery project that you just can't seem to get done? Bring it to the church fellowship hall on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. and work on it. This will give you an uninterrupted one or two hours per week to focus on your project. Great time to get to know your fellow crafters."



### In This Issue

From the Pastor .....	page 2
Upcoming Events .....	page 3
Preschool .....	page 4-5
Youth Activities .....	page 6
Calendar of Events .....	page 7

## “A Savior from Sin”



All around us we are beginning to see the sights and sounds that make up the Christmas season. The Christmas carolers are getting ready to make their rounds at nursing homes and care centers. The city streets are bright with strings of Christmas lights. The words “Happy Holidays” and “Merry Christmas” are falling from people lips in the stores, at work, and on television. Everyone, it seems, is getting ready for Christmas

And yet, in the midst of all this, we who have been called as God’s people must ask ourselves how many of these people who seem so excited about Christmas are going to celebrate the real reason for the season? We meet people every day who put up a tree, buy presents and get pictures of their children sitting on Santa’s lap and yet fail to see the real reason for celebration.

We know that the reason we celebrate is because God chose to come down to earth and become one of us, to take on human flesh and dwell among us. His coming has impacted the history of mankind in a way no other has come close to. We measure our time from the birth of that child in Bethlehem. Composers such as Bach, Handel and Beethoven used their talents to write music which might, in some way, reflect the glory of that event. And countless people have committed their lives to sharing this story, even to the point of paying for that

privilege with their very lives.

And what a beautiful and wondrous story it is. The angel proclaimed to the shepherds in the fields, *“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11)*. A Savior!! That’s what the angel told Joseph when he said he was to name this baby *“Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21)*

A Savior from sin. That is just what we needed and it is just what God gave us. The great news of Christmas is that we remember and celebrate the birth of the One who came *“not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28)*. He came to restore our relationship with God because it had been broken by sin. At Christmas we celebrate the fact *“that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:19)*. As wonderful as family get-togethers, delicious dinners, beautiful trees and wonderful presents are, these are not Christmas. Christmas is Christ – His birth and the joy His birth brings to sinners like you and me.

I pray that your Christmas is filled with the joy and hope which the birth of Christ brings to all the world and, as always, I look forward to seeing you all in church.

*Pastor Brooks*

### **Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule 2018**

*On Wednesdays a light supper will be served from 5:30-6:15 pm. A hymn sing will begin in the sanctuary at 6:15 pm, worship will begin at 6:30 pm and be concluded no later than 7:15 pm.*

Sunday, Dec. 3 - 10:30 am	“Buy Presents/Be Present”	John 1:35-42a
Wednesday, Dec. 6 - 6:30 pm	“Behind but with Hope”	Exodus 33:19-20
Sunday, Dec. 10 - 10:30 am	“Send Cards/Send Peace”	Matthew 1:18-25
Wednesday, Dec. 13 - 6:30 pm	“Buffeted, but on Faith”	Romans 15:4
Sunday, Dec. 17 - 10:30 am	Sunday School Christmas Program	
Wednesday, Dec. 20 - 6:30 pm	“Surrounded by the Father’s Love”	Matthew 11:2-6
Sunday, Dec. 24 - 10:30 am	“Wrap Gifts/Wrap Love”	Luke 1:26-38
	<b>Christmas Eve Carol &amp; Candlelight Service</b>	
Sunday, Dec. 24 - 7:00 pm	“Be the Light”	Luke 2:1-20
	<b>Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion</b>	
Monday, Dec. 25 - 10:00 am	“Return to the Manger”	John 1:1-18

## Jr. High Winter SnowJam

What could be better than GaGa ball at Summer Camp? Tubing at Winter Camp! And Broomball! And snowshoeing! And some amazing time with Jesus! Come to Camp Perkins Junior High Retreat to play in the snow, eat great food, sit by a warm fire, build new friendships, bond with your youth group and get to know Jesus through Bible study, worship, and close community.

### Retreat Details

**For grades 6-9**

**SnowJam 1: Jan 5-7, 2018**

**SnowJam 2: Jan 26-28, 2018**

**Limited to 45 people each session.**

**\*Jr High youth must register with a youth group.**

**Cost: \$100/person early registration**

(\$110 if registering within 14 days of event)

## Men's Weekend

Ignore your cell phone (which doesn't work at camp anyway!) Play cards next to the fire. And start training now for the Pong-a-thon Tournament. Eat meat and relax for a movie night. Snowshoe and cross country ski the groomed trails or explore some of the best backcountry skiing terrain invites some sweet turns in fresh powder! Barrel down the tubing run! Snowmobile in the powder or on the trails of the Sawtooth Mountains - bring your own or rent one from [Smiley Creek Lodge!](#)

### Winter Weekend Details

**February 23-25, 2018**

**Cost:**

**Cost: \$115/person early registration**

(\$125 if registering within 14 days of event)

## Craft Retreats

Grab your scrapbooks, quilts, and sewing machines. Muster all of your creativity and get ready to craft your weekend away at Camp Perkins' annual Women's Crafting Retreat. Relax in the Camp Perkins community and have a massage while you are at it!

### Retreat Details

**January 12-14 or 15, 2018**

**February 9-11 or 12, 2018**

**2 Nights:**

**\$125/person**

**3 Nights:**

**\$150/person**

**\*Cost: \$115/\$140 person early registration**



## Concordia Circle/LWML—

The women of Grace are invited to attend the annual Concordia Circle/LWML Christmas party on Dec 4th, 6:30 at Donna Steiger's home. A meal will be served, followed with some games and a gift exchange. The women will also be doing an ingathering of canned goods. For more information please contact Barbara James or Donna Steiger.

## Council Meeting—

The council meeting for this month has been cancelled.

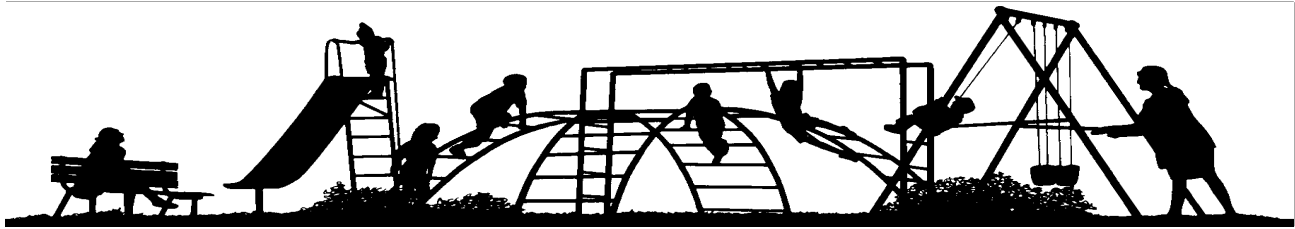
## Elder Meeting—

The Elder's meeting for this month will be held on Tuesday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m.

## Holiday Craft and Bake Sale—

Please join us Sunday, Dec. 17, after the Children's Christmas Service and on Wed. Dec. 20 before the Midweek Advent service to fill up your Christmas shopping bag with all sorts of candy, cookies and breads and Homemade Crafts for gifts. We would love to have your crafts or baked goods to add to this sale, too. If you would like to assist in sewing some craft gifts, we will be meeting soon. Please check with Janet Brooks for more details on that. We've applied for Thrivent Action Team funds to purchase materials for these crafts. All proceeds will go to Becky Parry. Ongoing medical issues and the inability to work have resulted in a great loss of income.





## Grace Lutheran Preschool

### *4 Year Old Class*

~~~~~

The children have been learning about the 10 commandments, David & Goliath, Daniel & the Lion's den and Thankfulness. Our Bible verses were: Exodus 20:3, You shall have no other Gods before me. 1 Samuel 17:47, The battle belongs to the Lord. Isaiah 41:10, Do not fear, for I am with you. & Psalm 9:1 I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart. We've been playing hand bells and have incorporated it into our music time. The kids are very good and really enjoy it.

Our letters were O, Q, G, and S. Sequence and numbers are coming along smoothly. Some of our favorite crafts were: making clay tablets, letter O Fall wreath, David's pouch of stones made with felt, G is for gumball, pumpkin spice homemade play dough, painting & fingerprint Indian corn, torn paper pumpkin pie slices and paper Pilgrim hats. Our Fall trees and Pilgrims made with shapes are on the bulletin board in the hallway, please take a look. We were happy to celebrate our blessings while enjoying a slice of pumpkin pie as we shared what we're thankful for. We're thankful for our students and their wonderful families.

For December our devotions and crafts will be focused on the Christmas story. To name a few: a Trinity snowman, J is for Jesus candy cane, coffee filter angels, paper trees, an angel made with a foot and hand prints, painting popsicle sticks and adding buttons to make an ornament. We'll be preparing to sing at the Christmas program, and keepsake gifts for loved one will be made with pride.



The **WORLD** needs a **STABLE** influence.

Merry Christmas, Mrs. Christiansen & Miss Patti

### 3 Year Old Class

~~~~~

For November, Bible stories included the Ten Lepers, David & Goliath & the Ten Commandments. The children learned about the one leper who returned to Jesus to give thanks for healing him, about David who gave thanks for giving him the courage to defeat Goliath; to be thankful for the rules that God has provided us and how the Indians & Pilgrims gathered to give thanks for the food and friendships that were made. The children were also reminded that we should regularly give thanks for our beautiful earth, food, family, and friends. We made turkey headbands, hand stamped turkey placemats, Q-tip painted Indian corn, practiced using scissors by cutting ovals, played memorization games, and went on a leaf hunt. We found some really big leaves and some really small ones and then decorated our bulletin board with them

This month's bible verse is "Jesus has been born for you!" Luke 2:11. We will tell the story of Mary & Joseph, their journey to Bethlehem, the wonderful birth of Christ, Angels appearing and the gifts from the Wisemen. We will focus on the color green, the star shape, the letters Q, G, & S, and the number 10 with a review of 1-10. We will also include travel and snacking on country specific foods.

During the last week of last month we began our exploration of various countries. Children started creating their passports and are getting it stamped as they visit a different country each day.



We have one birthday this month. Happy Birthday wishes go out to Louis whose birthday is on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend our parent/teacher conferences. We enjoyed having the time to discuss in more detail how your child is doing in class.

Also, thank you to all the parents who brought in the very yummy dishes for our Thanksgiving Feasts. We had more than enough food, a lot of fun and it was nice spending time with our special guests.

On Sunday, December 17 we will have a Children's Christmas program. The preschool children will be singing. Watch for songs to come home for practice. Family & friends are all invited to attend. We will also be having a gift exchange on Dec. 20/21. We recommend that children exchange a book and not to spend more than \$5.00.

Mrs. Farrell & Mrs. Gigray

### Important Dates

Dec. 17	Christmas Program
Dec. 25 – Jan. 5	Christmas Break
Jan. 9, 2018	School Resumes

**Twinkle, Twinkle**  
 Twinkle, twinkle shining star  
 Wise men followed from afar!  
 Worshipping Him  
 With gifts to bring  
 For they knew He was the King.  
 Twinkle, twinkle shining star  
 Wise men followed from afar!



Adapted by Sonlight from www.sonlight.com



**1 John 4:19**

**We love because He first loved us.**



Family  
Christmas Caroling  
Saturday, Dec. 16 @ 1 PM  
*Christmas craft, hot chocolate & cookies afterwards*

all Youth CHRISTMAS PARTY  
Sunday, December 17 @ 6:30 PM PASTOR'S house  
PRIZE FOR BEST APPETIZER!  
BEST UGM CHRISTMAS SWEATER  
BRING THE BEST WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT!



Annual Children's Christmas Program  
How the Grinch Found the  
Christ in Christmas  
Sunday, Dec. 17

**MSM**  
DECEMBER 4 @ 6:30 PM  
Middle School Ministry

**WINTER RETREAT**  
Middle School Snow Jam Winter Retreat at  
Camp Perkins  
January 5-7, 2018 Cost \$100  
Sign up by Dec. 17

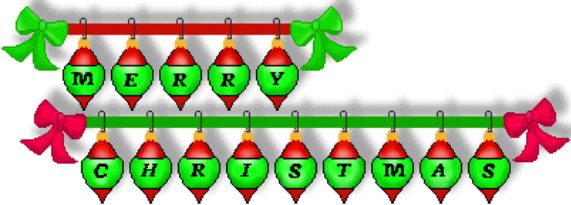
**High School Bible Study**  
Sunday Nights at 6:30 P.M.

December  
3 & 10

A Life in Christ  
God's Love  
at  
the Feast

Every Sunday  
12 PM to 2 PM  
Questions?  
Contact Pastor

# December 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	
<b>31</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship  Greeters: Barbara & Dawna James						<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J
<b>3</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship w/ Holy Communion 12:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:30 pm High School Bible Study  Greeters: Nancy Hoffmann	<b>4</b> <i>Preschool: 3's</i>  6:30 pm MSM 6:30 pm LWML/Concordia Circle Christmas Party at Donna Steiger's Home	<b>5</b> <i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i> 9:30/12:30 Pre-K Chapel  5:45 pm Exercise	<b>6</b> <i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:30 am Adult Study 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Advent Service Choir Practice after Service	<b>7</b> <i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i>  1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise 6:00 pm Theology on Tap	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J	
<b>10</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship <i>Board of Education</i> <i>Board of Trustees</i> 12:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:30 pm High School Bible Study  Greeters: Dave & Trish Henderson	<b>11</b> <i>Preschool: 3's</i>	<b>12</b> <i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i>  5:45 pm Exercise	<b>13</b> <i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:30 am Adult Study 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Advent Service Choir Practice after Service	<b>14</b> <i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i>  1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J  1:00 pm Family Christmas Caroling see page 6	
<b>17 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship No Communion 12:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:30 pm All Youth Christmas Party <i>Holiday Craft &amp; Bake Sale</i> <i>Fundraiser</i>  Greeters: Mike & Lorrie Houston	<b>18</b> <i>Preschool: 3's</i>	<b>19</b> <i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i> 9:30/12:30 Pre-K Chapel <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 5:45 pm Exercise 6:00 pm Elder's	<b>20</b> <i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> <i>Holiday Craft &amp; Bake Sale</i> <i>Fundraiser</i> 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Advent Service Choir Practice after Service	<b>21</b> <i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i>  1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise 6:00 pm Theology on Tap <i>No Council Meeting</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J	
<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship w/ Holy Communion  7:00 pm Carol & Candlelight Service  Greeters: Terry & Sharon Hensen	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 10:00 am Worship w/ Holy Communion  Greeters: Don & Lorene Schuster	<b>26</b>  5:45 pm Exercise	<b>27</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>  No Choir Practice	<b>28</b>  1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J	

Christmas Break – No Preschool 12/25/17 – 1/5/18