



Grace Newsletter

January 2018

Human Sex Trafficking—

We will be taking the year of 2018 to educate and become involved in the fight against Human Trafficking, specifically, Sex Trafficking.

What is Human Sex Trafficking?

"Sex trafficking is a form of modern slavery that exists throughout the United States and globally.

Sex traffickers use violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to compel adults and children to engage in commercial sex acts against their will. Under U.S. federal law, any minor under the age of 18 years induced into commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking—regardless of whether or not the trafficker used force, fraud, or coercion." (retrieved from <http://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/sex-trafficking>).

Join us on Friday, January 19 at 6:30 PM for a screening of the documentary I Am Jane Doe. This movie has a PG-13 recommendation. It is a very powerful, disturbing film.

I Am Jane Doe chronicles the epic battle that several American mothers are waging on behalf of their underage daughters who were bought and sold for sex on Backpage.com, the adult classifieds section that for years was part of the iconic Village Voice. I Am Jane Doe follows the journey of these young girls and their mothers who have filed law suits against Backpage, setting these children on a collision course not only with the owners of Backpage, but with judges, powerful companies, special interest groups, and Section 230 of the U.S. Communications Decency Act, an internet freedom law that has been interpreted by federal judges to provide a safe haven for website publishers to advertise underage girls for sex. These cases have, thus far, not gone well for these Jane Doe children, but have sparked a political movement and a Senate Investigation.

Throughout the year, speakers and organizations will be invited to Grace to share on statistics and what is happening in our valley. We will also talk about this issue on a global scale. If you have any questions or would like to be involved in the planning process, please talk to Pastor or Amy.

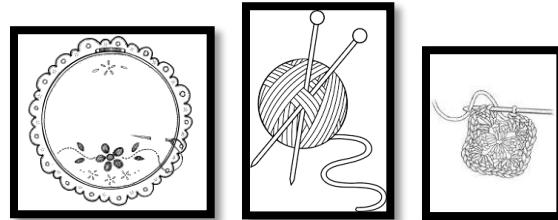


Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study—

Women's Bible Study will begin Tuesday, January 9 at 7 PM. The group is meeting at Donna Steiger's house. Please call the church if you need directions. All women are invited to join this study. They will be reading "When God Doesn't Fix It: Lessons You Never Wanted to Learn, Truths You Can't Live Without" by Laura Story.

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."



Year-end Board Reports—

All Boards and Organizations, please have your year-end reports submitted to Hope no later than Friday, January 5, 2018.



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“Remember the Past and Move into the Future”

“Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13a-14)

Looking back through some files I came across this little story that, I believe, gives us some good guidance as we move into a New Year. We should remember the past and then move into the future with confidence.



“Years ago a thunderstorm swept through southern Kentucky at the farm where my ancestors have lived for six generations. In the orchard, the wind blew over an old pear tree that had been there as long as anyone could remember. My grandfather grieved to lose the tree on which he had climbed as a boy and whose fruit he had eaten all his life.

“A neighbor came by and said, ‘Doc, I’m really sorry to see your pear tree blown down.’

‘I’m sorry, too,’ said my grandfather. ‘It was a real part of my past.’

‘What are you going to do,’ the neighbor asked.

“My grandfather paused for a moment and then said, ‘I’m going to pick the fruit and burn what’s left.’

“That’s a wise way to deal with many things in our past. We need to learn their lessons, enjoy their pleasures, and then go on with the present and the future.”

John Claypool – *Leadership Magazine*



Life is full of experiences, both good and bad. Those things that have happened in the past should not simply be forgotten. We need to learn from them. When we do we are most able to see the guiding hand of our God.

The prophet, Isaiah, wrote: “*I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the LORD has done for us-- yes, the many good things he has done for the house of Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses....In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.*” Isaiah 63:7, 9 NIV

Throughout 2017 we’ve been looking back as we’ve celebrated 75 years of God’s grace and mercy on this congregation. I would ask that you now take some time to look back over this past year in your personal life. As you do, I believe you will be able to point to specific instances in which you saw the hand of God.

All of us can see His gracious hand in giving food and shelter, perhaps health and happy times. Each year is different. But the kindness and mercy of God are constant, always able to be counted upon.

It’s important to remember those good things from the hand of our God. But we can, and should, also recognize His mercies. As you look back on this year you will probably see times you have made mistakes, maybe even things that could have come out so much worse were it not for the fact of God’s presence in your life. It’s important for us to remember our mistakes so we don’t forget them.

But we also need to remember that, learning from our blunders doesn’t mean dwelling on them. If we do, our sins and failures will easily weigh us down. After we have remembered those past failures, we give them over to Christ.

“...learning from our blunders doesn’t mean dwelling on them.”

That’s exactly what Paul had in mind when he wrote: “*Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*” (Philippians 3:13a-14)

The suggestion of that grandfather in the story above is a good thing: “pick the fruit and burn what’s left.” Because of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection we don’t have to relive or be burdened by the past. We are called to cling to His promise that all of the sins we have committed are forgiven by God for Christ’s sake. The past cannot haunt or hurt you because it has been washed away in the blood of our Savior.

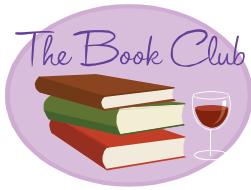
As we begin a new year, let’s do so by:

1. Remember the Lord whose “mercies are new every morning” (Lamentations 3:23); and then
2. “*Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.*” (Hebrews 12:1b-2a)

The best resolution anyone can make is to spend some time each day reflecting on the good of God and the forgiveness which is ours in Christ.

May God’s blessings in this New Year be ours as we live out our faith together in this broken world and I’ll see you in church.

Pastor Brooks



The next gathering of the Grace Book Club will be on Sunday, **January 21** at 6:30 pm. Meeting place will be at the Fredrickson's residence. We will be reading and discussing "The Story of Edgar Sawtelle" by David Wroblewski.

Summary: Born mute, speaking only in sign, Edgar Sawtelle leads an idyllic life with his parents on their farm in remote northern Wisconsin. For generations, the Sawtelles have raised and trained a fictional breed of dog whose thoughtful companionship is epitomized by Almondine, Edgar's lifelong friend and ally. But with the unexpected return of Claude, Edgar's paternal uncle, turmoil consumes the Sawtelles' once peaceful home. When Edgar's father dies suddenly, Claude insinuates himself into the life of the farm—and into Edgar's mother's affections. Grief-stricken and bewildered, Edgar tries to prove Claude played a role in his father's death, but his plan backfires—spectacularly. Forced to flee into the vast wilderness lying beyond the farm, Edgar comes of age in the wild, fighting for his survival and that of the three yearling dogs who follow him. But his need to face his father's murderer and his devotion to the Sawtelle dogs turn Edgar ever homeward.

Any and all women are invited to join us for a heartfelt talk and a glass of wine! If you have any questions, you can call Janet at 801-518-7319.

Concordia Circle/LWML—

Concordia Circle/LWML will meet Monday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. Please contact Barbara James with any questions.

Next Council Meeting—

Is on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 7:30pm.

Next Elder's Meeting—

Is on Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 6pm.

Next Voter's Meeting—

Is on Sunday, Jan. 14 following a potluck lunch. **Potluck information:** If your last name begins with the letters A-F, bring a hot side dish; G-L, bring a salad; M-R, bring a dessert; S-Z, bring a meat dish.

After the potluck, the annual congregational meeting will be held finalizing the 2018 budget. Please plan on attending this very important meeting.



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

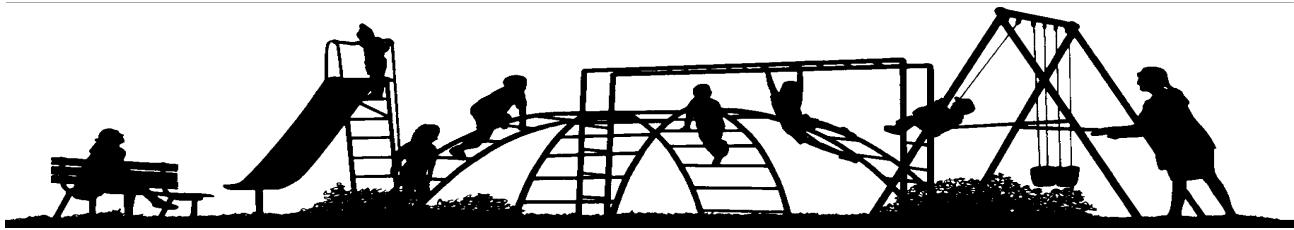
February 9-11 or 12, 2018

2 Nights:

\$125/person

3 Nights:

\$150/person



Grace Lutheran Preschool

REMAINING 2017-2018 CALENDAR

Jan. 8, 2018	School Resumes
February 5 – 9	Lutheran School's Week (Recognition)
February 11	Children Sing –Sunday Service
March 26 – 30	Spring Break
April 24 – 26	Conferences
May 17	Last Day of School
May 17	Celebration Program

4 Year Old Class

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What an exciting time of the year. We finished the Old Testament stories with Jonah and begun the New Testament with the Christmas story. Some students are sounding out small words with the letters we've learned. The students enjoy counting in many different ways including: by twos, fives, and tens and in Spanish. They've greatly improved their problem solving skills with the help of mazes, rug games, math and board games like Checkers and Concentration.

Our letters were J, D, P and B. Our Bible verses were: God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9, "Do not be afraid, you have found favor with God." Luke 1:3, Blessed is the King. John 12:13, and A Savior has been born. Luke 2:11

We did so many wonderful crafts including: letter J is for Jesus candy cane, popsicle stick Christmas tree ornaments with buttons, coffee filter angels, assorted sized greens stripes to create a Christmas tree, painted ceramic ornaments, bead art, hand & foot print angels, reindeer antler headbands, and baking. The kids really liked making cookies, ornaments and anything with glitter. Be sure to look at the Trinity snowmen on the bulletin board in the hallway. The Christmas program went wonderfully, and we had the highest attendance yet for the special event. Thank you so much for being a part of it. Our Christmas party was a huge success and the kids were so full of energy and joy. Thank you to the families who donated toward this year's Blessing Box, such giving will be most appreciated.

In His grace, Mrs. Christiansen & Ms. Patti

3 Year Old Class

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Well, 2017 went by fast. During December, the children heard about the story of "Jesus's" birth; they rode a donkey, travelled to several countries, tasted new & different snacks, made several "Christmas" crafts and exchanged gifts. The children learned that Jesus was born for everyone and loves everyone no matter where you live on the earth.

Crafts included paper gondolas, foam decorated gingerbread men, coffee filter angels, poinsettia's, toilet paper tube nutcrackers, stained glass tissue paper stables, baby Jesus wooden star ornaments, foam Christmas trees' and construction paper Santa Clause's, stockings, and the three wise men.

We ended December with a gift exchange and singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. The children were very excited about sharing and receiving a gift at school. The books were a hit! The birthday cake was yummy too. Thank you all for helping our special day go smoothly.

As most of you know our Christmas program was a lot of fun and had a tremendous turnout. What a wonderful showing of support from family and friends of our preschool and church. We apologize for anyone not having a seat or a good view of their child. Videos of the children singing have been posted to our private Facebook page for your viewing. We feel blessed to have had such a turnout

This month's bible verse is "Jesus grew in wisdom and the grace of God was upon him." Luke 2:40. We will talk about Jesus as a boy, John the Baptist, Jesus' Baptism and Jesus choosing His Disciples. We will focus on the colors blue & white, the diamond shape, the letters D, J, & P, and the numbers 11, 12, & 13. We will also be discussing feelings and the Winter season.

We would also like to thank all of the families for the thoughtful Christmas cards and gifts.



We have two birthdays this month. Happy Birthday wishes go out to William whose birthday is on the 1<sup>st</sup> & to MaKenna whose birthday is on the 28<sup>th</sup>.



Mrs. Farrell & Mrs. Gigray

**1 John 4:19**  
**We love because He first loved us.**



#### **Extra...Extra read all about it!**

**"You Are Welcome Here"**

**Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018**

Come to the 2018 Lutheran Community Services' Annual Banquet, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm at the Clubhouse Event Center (on Potomac Drive off of Cole road across from Boise Town Square).

\*Reserve your place by February 20th at [lcsnw.org/RSVP](http://lcsnw.org/RSVP) or call 208-323-0996 ext 12.

\*Wish to be a sponsor or a table host? Contact Charlotte Combe.

# All Youth Snow Tubing

AT Eagle Island  
Saturday, Jan. 20  
Meet at church at 1 PM  
COST: \$20 FOR Tubing and Pizza  
Please sign up by Jan. 8



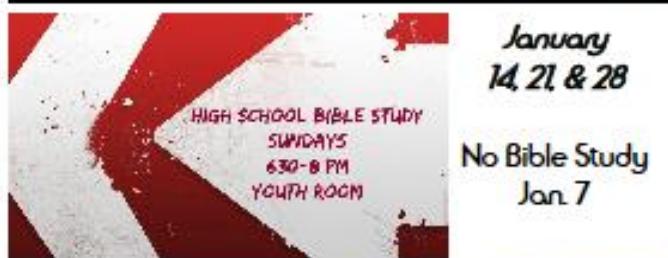
For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11



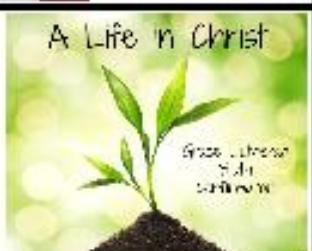
**Middle School Monday**  
**January 15 @ 6:30 PM**

## Snacks, Games & Bible Study



SUNDAYS IN JANUARY:  
7, 14 & 28

NO CLASS  
JAN. 14



## FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT

DECORATE PLACEMATS FOR  
MEALS ON WHEELS  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 6  
10 AM - NOON



**Friday, Jan. 26 at 6 PM**  
**Taco Bar Dinner**  
**Bring a game to share!**  
**Bring a friend!**

# January 2018

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                | Monday                                                                 | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                              | Wednesday                                                                                                                          | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Friday                                            | Saturday                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b>                                         | <b>2</b>                                                                                                                                                             | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                           | <b>4</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>5</b>                                          | <b>6</b><br>8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J<br>10:00 am Family Service Project                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                        | <i>Christmas Break – Preschool Resumes 1/8/18</i>                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                   |                                                                                                                                   |
| 7<br>9:15 am Christian Education<br>10:30 am Family Worship w/ Holy Communion<br>12:00 pm Confirmation Class<br><br>Greeters: Hope Farrell                                                            | <b>8</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's</i><br><br>7:00 pm LWML/Concordia Circle | <b>9</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i><br><br>5:45 pm Exercise<br>7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Donna Steiger's                                                | <b>10</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i><br><br><b>Bulletin Deadline</b><br>10:30 am Bible Study<br><br>7:30 pm Choir Practice | <b>11</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i><br><br>1:00 pm Quilters<br>5:45 pm Exercise<br>7:30 pm Council                                                                                                          | <b>12</b>                                         | <b>13</b><br>8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J                                                                 |
| <b>14</b><br>9:15 am Christian Education<br>10:30 am Family Worship<br><br><i>Annual Budget Voter's Meeting w/ Potluck</i><br><br>6:30 pm High School Bible Study<br>Greeters: Chris & Natalie Kelpin | <b>15</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's</i><br><br>6:30 pm MSM                  | <b>16</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i><br><br>9:30/12:30 Pre-K Chapel<br>5:45 pm Exercise<br>6:00 pm Elder's<br>7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Donna Steiger's | <b>17</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i><br><br><b>Bulletin Deadline</b><br>10:30 am Bible Study<br><br>7:30 pm Choir Practice | <b>18</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i><br><br><b>Newsletter Deadline</b><br>1:00 pm Quilters<br>5:45 pm Exercise                                                                                               | <b>19</b>                                         | <b>20</b><br>8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J<br><br>1:00 pm All Youth Snow Tubing at Eagle Island see page 6 |
| <b>21</b><br>9:15 am Christian Education<br>10:30 am Family Worship w/ Holy Communion<br>12:00 pm Confirmation Class<br><br>6:30 pm High School Bible Study<br>Greeters: Jon & Margaret Kilzer        | <b>22</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's</i>                                     | <b>23</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i><br><br>5:45 pm Exercise<br>7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Donna Steiger's                                               | <b>24</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i><br><br><b>Bulletin Deadline</b><br>10:30 am Bible Study<br><br>7:30 pm Choir Practice | <b>25</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i><br><br>1:00 pm Quilters<br>5:45 pm Exercise                                                                                                                             | <b>26</b><br>6:00 pm Family Game Night see page 6 | <b>27</b><br>8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J                                                                 |
| <b>28</b><br>9:15 am Christian Education<br>10:30 am Family Worship w/ Holy Communion<br>12:00 pm Confirmation Class<br><br>6:30 pm High School Bible Study<br>Greeters: Mike & Lorrie Houston        | <b>29</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's</i>                                     | <b>30</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i><br><br>5:45 pm Exercise<br>7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Donna Steiger's                                               | <b>31</b><br><i>Preschool: 3's &amp; 4's</i><br><br><b>Bulletin Deadline</b><br>10:30 am Bible Study<br><br>7:30 pm Choir Practice | <i>Psalm 62</i><br><br><sup>1</sup> <i>Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.</i><br><br><sup>2</sup> <i>Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.</i> |                                                   |                                                                                                                                   |