



Grace  
Lutheran

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 16 & 17, 2017

Rev. Kevin Clementson

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## WORSHIP SERVICES

**5:00 pm** – Saturday in the **Sanctuary**

**7:45 am** – Sunday in the **Sanctuary**

**9:00 am** – Sunday in **Grace Hall**

**11:15 am** – Sunday in the **Sanctuary**

**10:15 Education Hour**

*\*\*Nursery is available for children 3 and under during the Education Hour in Room 100.*

## WELCOME VISITORS

We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today. Please stop by the Visitor's Table to pick up a Welcome Bag.

We invite you to sign the RCR card or fill out a visitor's card at the Table so we can get to know you.

## Christmas Cantata



*Touched by a Child, Touched by a King* will be presented at the 11:15 worship service this Sunday in the sanctuary. We thank Ted Dix, the Festival Choir, the soloists and narrator for preparing this excellent musical program to inspire our hearts this Christmas.

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## Helping our Neighbors -- Your help is needed

Social Ministry Committee will be preparing and delivering Christmas Baskets to our friends and neighbors in need during the 10:15 Education Hour this Sunday in the Lower Gathering Space. Could you help us? All help is greatly appreciated. The more people helping, the more fun we have!!!



## Christmas & New Year Worship Schedule

**December 23 & 24**

Observing Advent IV -- Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 9:00 am  
Both services will be held in the Theater. (No 10:15 am Education Hour.)

Celebrating Christmas Eve -- Sunday at 12:00 noon, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm, and 10:30 pm.

**December 30 & 31**

Readings and Carols for Christmas - Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday at 7:45, am 9:00 am, & 11:15 am. (No 10:15 am Education Hour.)



**Thank you!!!!**

Thank you for your help in spreading the spirit of giving this Christmas. The bags given by Table of Grace to our guests are due this Sunday. Thank you so much for once again responding so generously in filling these bags. We appreciate your help!

Pastor Martha expresses thanks to the many members who shared financial resources to support a local family this Christmas. The outpouring was truly inspiring and we've made a huge difference for this family. Thank you!!!

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**Fair Trade Gift Baskets for Sale**

We invite you to check out the festive gift baskets in the Upper and Lower Gathering Spaces containing Fair Trade Products. This is another great way to support people struggling to make a living while giving a thoughtful gift to a friend.



We will be selling Christmas gift baskets before and after worship services on Saturdays and Sundays during December until just after the 9:00 am Advent Service on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Baskets will not be sold before, during, or after the Christmas Eve services in the afternoon and evening.

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**Epiphany Celebration**

***The Burning of the Greens***

Join us Sunday, January 7th at 3:00 pm at the Hirt Tree Farm as we close out the Christmas Season with an ancient tradition of burning the Christmas greens, i.e. Christmas trees. We will begin with a brief worship service inside and gather in a nearby field around a fire to sing Christmas carols one last time.



Whether or not you have a tree to burn, please plan to join us for this very special event.

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**Altar Guild Volunteers Needed**

The Altar Guild is in need of a few volunteers to help prepare the altar in Grace Hall. If you would like to learn how to take care of the altar and prepare it for worship please consider becoming an Altar Guild volunteer. Preparations can be made on Sunday following the last worship service or later in the week as your schedule permits. Volunteers are scheduled in pairs on a monthly basis and it usually takes about 10-20 minutes per week to complete the tasks. Training & guidance will be provided. If you are interested, please email Cyndy Beckhardt: [crvbeck@comcast.net](mailto:crvbeck@comcast.net). Also, you may complete an RCR card and check off which month you would be able to volunteer and place in the offering plate during worship.



## **Adult Forum: "Dusting Off Your Bible"**

**Sunday, January 21 -- 10:15 am in Grace Hall**

The Bible is a means of Grace....that is, it feeds our faith and encourages our walk with Christ. But the Bible also can be confusing and so all too often we allow it to collect dust! Join us for a real-life conversation about how we can get more out of our study of Scripture. Listen as the pastors and others share their experiences and wisdom of how our devotional life can become more engaging and meaningful in the New Year.

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### **Thanks for being a Greeter**

We are grateful for the 60 volunteers who helped the Evangelism Committee get our new greeting ministry off the ground! With four worship services every weekend it takes many people to make this ministry happen! If you can help in the New Year, we'd love to hear from you. We are especially in need of new greeters for the 5:00 service on Saturdays. Individuals as well as families have found this to be a meaningful way to serve our congregation. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Eileen and Jr Zepp ([eileenandjr@gamil.com](mailto:eileenandjr@gamil.com)) or Sheila Law ([sheilablau@comcast.net](mailto:sheilablau@comcast.net)) or sign the RCR card today!



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### **2018 Flower Donations**



The Flower Charts are now available for 2018. This is wonderful way to help provide a beautiful space for our worship while honoring or remembering a loved one. The cost of flowers is \$40, which includes the two vases in the Sanctuary OR a basket in Grace hall. After the worship services on the weekend of your donation, you are invited to take the flowers with you. You also have the option of leaving the flowers so that they can be taken to an ill or shut-in member of the congregation. If you'd like to donate flowers, please sign the chart (for Grace Hall, the chart is on the bulletin board in the Upper Gathering Space; for the Sanctuary, the chart is on the bulletin board in the Cloister. Please be sure to sign the correct chart!) Just before the date of your donation, you will receive a call or email from our church staff asking for the wording of your dedication. You can pay your \$40 directly to the church office or through your offering envelope. Be sure to clearly mark it "altar flowers."

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### **Faith Talk for Women**

Although we normally meet on the fifth Wednesday of the month, the next Faith Talk for Women will be on January 24 (the fourth Wednesday)! Please join us for dinner, fellowship, and a study/conversation taking a closer look at Katharina von Bora Luther.

All women are invited. We gather around 5:30 to order dinner and enjoy being with one another. Pastor Martha begins the study at 7:00 and concludes by 8:00. Participants are asked to bring cash in small bills in order to pay the bill more smoothly.





American Red Cross

### January Red Cross Blood Drive

Grace Lutheran is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, January 22 from 2:00-7:30 p.m. in Grace Hall. Please call Emma Jane Weishaar at 410-848-1231 or email [ejweishaar@comcast.net](mailto:ejweishaar@comcast.net) to schedule an appointment.

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### LFOG Registration for the 2018/2019 school year

We will begin taking registration on January 2<sup>nd</sup> for the 2018/2019 school year. Current students and siblings have first priority for registration from January 2<sup>nd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. **Grace Lutheran congregational members will be able to register from January 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.** On January 22<sup>nd</sup> we will open registration to the public.

If you are interested in registering, please call Anita at the preschool office, 410-848-7020 for more information or to schedule a visit and observe the classrooms. Registration forms are available in the literature racks or may be downloaded from the website. If you have any questions, please contact Anita in the preschool office.

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### Church Decorating



A reminder to those who signed up to help with decorating our worship spaces for Christmas Eve: the Decorating Party will begin with Pizza at 6:00 p.m. Lots of folks volunteered to help, so the work should go smoothly. See you Friday evening!

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### Update on Church finances

Grace has the possibility of ending this year in the black for the first time in many, many years!!! If you can, please help us meet this milestone. This will be so important in 2018 as we negotiate the refinancing of our mortgage. A special gift toward either the mortgage or the operating fund would really help to make the difference as we approach the end of the year. Thank you for your prayers and your gifts of time, talent and treasure.



## DURING WORSHIP THIS WEEK



### SERVING THIS WEEK - December 16-17:

**Preacher:** Pastor Kevin Clementson  
**Worship Assistants (5:00)** Ellen Lichtfuss  
**(7:45)** Steve Blades **(9:00)** Kathy Rehak  
**(11:15)** Rich Schuste  
**Communion Assistants:**  
**(9:00)** Debbie Null, Stacie Dowling,  
Michelle Harrod, Jess Tanzey, Stacey Tanzey  
**Element Bearers (9:00)** Jacob & Sierra DeGreif  
**Ushers: (9:00)** Lois & Dave McGinnis, Jeff & Adam Barnes  
**Acolyte: (11:15)** Kayla Sherfey  
**Greeters: (5:00)** Clara & Art Thimsen  
**(9:00)** Amy & Jay Slagle, Harrod Family  
**(11:15)** Marion Fourhman, Vadder Family

### DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD:

Cyndy Beckhardt & Sharon Deardorff (S & GH)

### SERVING NEXT WEEK - December 23-24:

**Preacher:** Pastor Martha Clementson  
**Worship Assistants :**  
**(5:00 in Theater)** Viera Sabol  
**(9:00 in Theater)** Kathy Bare  
**Greeters: (5:00)** John Baumgardner

**Communion Assistants are still needed at the 4:00 Christmas Eve Services.**

**If you can help, please see Pastor Martha. Thank you!**

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*The altar flower basket in Grace Hall is given in honor of our parents  
Joseph and Rosemarie Crone  
by Michelle and Michael Harrod*

**DECEMBER 10, 2017 Worship Attendance:** (Bible Conversations) 9  
(5:00) 31 (7:45) 26 (9:00) 272 (11:15) 67 **(TOTAL) 405**

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALE (UGS, LGS)  
7:45 am Traditional Worship (S)  
9:00 am Contemporary Worship (GH)  
10:15am Christian Education Hour (Various)  
11:15am Christmas Cantata /Trad. Worship (S)  
3:00 pm Houston Pre-Trip Meeting (Trinity)  
5:30 pm T.E.C.T. Youth Gathering (Legacy, FH, K)

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017

6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 393 (Theater)  
6:00 pm Girl Scouts Troop 307 (FH)  
6:30 pm Girl Scouts Troop 1594 (111, 112)  
7:00 pm Agape Handbell Choir Rehearsal (MR)  
7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 393 (Legacy)  
7:00 pm Church Council (108)  
8:30 pm AA Meeting (109/110)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017

12:00 pm Historical Society Box Lunch Talks (GH)  
12:00 pm Table of Grace Soup Kitchen (FH, T)  
7:00 pm Christian Education Committee (107)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017

5:00 pm TOPS Weight Loss Club (109/110)  
5:45 pm Luther Choir Rehearsal (MR)  
7:30 pm Eating Disorders Anonymous (112)  
7:30 pm Praise Band/Singers Practice (GH)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017

5:00 pm Ardent Folk Bible Conversation (UGS)  
6:00 pm Ardent Folk Weekly Meal (FH/T)  
7:00 pm Ardent Folk Debriefing (L)  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (MR)  
7:30 pm New Beginnings NA Meeting (Legacy)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017

6:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Conversation (BE)  
6:00 pm Church Decorating Party (S, GH)

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017

8:30 am Red Cross Training Class (109/110)  
4:00 pm Cold Weather Shelter (K)  
5:00 pm Advent IV Worship Service (T)  
5:00 pm Surrender Together NA (Legacy)  
FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALE (UGS, LGS)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALE (UGS, LGS)  
9:00 am Advent IV Worship Service (T)  
**Christmas Eve Worship**  
12:00pm Carols & Holy Communion (S)  
4:00 pm Especially for Children (GH)  
6:00 pm Carols & Candle Lighting (GH)  
8:00 pm Carols & Candle Lighting (S)  
10:30pm Carols & Candle Lighting (S)



**(BE)** Bob Evans **(CLV)** Carroll Lutheran Village  
**(FH)** Fellowship Hall **(T)** Theater **(S)** Sanctuary  
**(GH)** Grace Hall **(UGS)** Upper Gathering Space  
**(LGS)** Lower Gathering Space **(MR)** Music Room





**Please remember in your prayers...**

Names will remain on the Continuing Prayer List for four weeks unless otherwise requested. Names will then be removed unless another request is made. Please contact the church office (410-848-7020) with any prayer requests or email [elichtfuss@gracelc.org](mailto:elichtfuss@gracelc.org).

**Those who are serving our country:** Midshipman Taylor Boeckmann, Private Logan Boeckmann, Marshall Brown, Shane Burda, Captain Ryan Chaney, PFC Nathaniel Czarnowsky, Chris St. Germain, Steve Haines, Christopher Hutchins, Nathan Karlson, Adam Miller, Leah Miller, Steven P. Miller, Jr., Paul Roberts, Lieutenant Tyler B. Yingling and all those individuals serving in our military.

**Those in Convalescent, Nursing or Rehab Centers:** Elinor Causey, Donald and Nancy Michael, Alice Middtun, Lillian Rosenberg, Barbara Serghini, Eleanore Spears, Ellen Terry and Charlotte Waltz

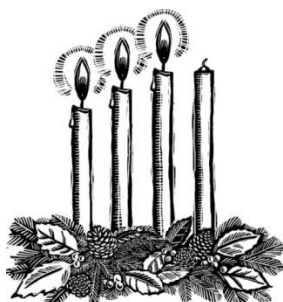
**Continuing Prayers:** Charles Adams, Kelly Adams, Ken Alderfer, Irene Bailey, Heather Barnes, The Bellgrau Family, Brian Bowersox, Joann Bradich, The family and friends of Kevin Campbell, Lou Chappel, Dorien Cole, Rocky and Bonnie Davis, Tom Dowling, Scott Eberts, Mike Flemming Sr, Joseph Flemming, Peggy Fogle, Tania Galcik, Bernadette Gray, Dick Haines, Joyce, Hertsch, Harriet Higgs, Ruth Higgs, Gordon Jenkins, Barbara Johnson, Donna & Richard Kent, Philip Kirk, Sandy and Walter Long, Chuck & Tammy Lowman, Don Ludwig, Larry Mathis, Dail Pease, Charlie & Carol Plunkert, Ed Rainey, Sandy Reilly, Bob Roys & Family, Carol & Lane Schuster, Michael Shipley, Jeanette Stephens & Family, Betty Thomas, Michael Williams, Jessica Young, Carnie Saint Cross, and everyone affected by the fires in California.

**Seminarians:** Nancy Brody, Kali Saint-Wyatt, and Beth Roegner

**Global Ministry Partners:** Pastors Eric and Wendolyn Trozzo serving in Malaysia, and The Lutheran Church, Paide, Estonia.

Also please pray for our pastors, the members of the Church Council, the staff and all of God's children at Grace Lutheran Church.

**NOTE:** *If you or someone you know is going into the hospital please call the church office as soon as possible.*



Third Sunday in Advent

And again, Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8: 12)