



December 27, 2017

Greetings friends,

As I look back over our 2017 at Grace Church, I'm filled with thankfulness for what a truly wonderful year it has been for us. We've had a few challenges, but have met each of them head-on and came away the better for it. We were proud to celebrate the Confirmation of five of our youth and the high school graduation of five more. We baptized three precious children and said "until we meet again" to five good men.

We've learned more effective ways to communicate in our committees and have done tremendous work together – our last council meeting was only 22 minutes long because our committees have increasingly become more efficient as everyone better understands roles and responsibilities.

We've truly learned the value of shared burdens and utilizing procedural processes for accomplishing goals and realizing some simple dreams.

Everything seems just a little more fun and a lot less stressful as we work together these days. May God continue to richly bless this Grace Church family in 2018.

Happy New Year!

This Week at Grace – This Sunday is New Year's Eve day. Pastor Fred's message on Sunday morning, *Thy Kingdom Com*, is inspired by Luke 2:22-40. Special music this week will be an opportunity to call out the page number of a favorite Christmas hymn. Cheryl Semler is our liturgist this week with David and Mary Loupee serving as greeters. David and Becky Barclay and George Janvrin will be acting as ushers. As always, worship begins at 9:15. Following our morning worship service there will be a time for Coffee and fellowship. There are no Sunday school classes on Dec. 31st. Please join us!

We are in need of volunteers to take charge of maintaining our pew racks. It only needs to be done once or twice a month and the duties would include straightening the hymnal, song book and Bible, making sure there are offering envelopes, sharpened pencils and the attendance pads have paper and are in place. If this is something you'd be willing to take on, please let us know in the church office.

In this Season of Giving

As 2017 nears its end, we are thankful to all who have made pledges or financial gifts to support our Grace Church this year. If you have not yet made a contribution, please consider supporting our mission and ministries as you do your year-end tax planning. All checks for 2017 contributions must be dated by 12/31/17 and received in the office no later than 1/4/18 to be included as donations for 2017.

If you are interested in making a tax advantaged transfer of securities, please contact Dan Webster, who is agent of our account at Reliance State Bank. He notes that this needs to be done as soon as possible.

May you sense God's grace and presence in this holy season.

Grace Finance Committee

Please plan to stick around after worship on Sunday, January 7th. We'll need lots of volunteers to help take down our decorations and the Christmas tree. Remember, many hands make light work for all! Thanks and we hope to see you and your two willing hands there!

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:
Natalie Tryon; Denny Michel; Sara Dappen; Julie Jacobson; Lois Johnson; Sharon Matson; Terry
(niece of George Sellers); Norman Patti; Pam Hillis; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family in Africa mission

News You Can Use

Sunday, December 31

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM NO Sunday school

Monday, January 1, 2018 – Happy New Year

OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, January 3

7:00 PM Choir

8:00 PM Bells

Sunday, January 7 - Epiphany

9:15 AM Worship – Choir sings, Communion

10:15 AM Take down tree and decorations

10:30 AM Sunday school

**Faithfully,
Cathy**