



From the Lead Team

Happy new year Grace family!

These past couple weeks have filled me with such joy in seeing our churches vibrant fellowship! What a blessing our children and youth are, especially in that wonderful Sunday school Christmas concert!

Are new year resolutions big on your minds these days? A resolution is defined as, "a firm decision to do or not do something". Maybe you're already going strong on a new diet or a new Bible reading plan. I'm curious, why does a new year help orient us into attempted improvements? Perhaps it's because it feels like a reset; a chance to start over and try again? Maybe it's related to coming through Christmas and the story of Jesus' birth. And how often do our good intentions and resolutions go awry after a short while? I think I found something that could help with that.

I was reading through Luke for the birth of Christ and in the chapter following His birth we read of His baptism and importantly his being filled with the Holy Spirit. Now before Jesus began his ministry, or his "new year resolution" He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. I think most of us know that he spent 40 days fasting and was then tempted 3 times by the devil, to which he didn't fall to temptation and replied with Scripture until the devil departed. Jesus then goes on with the power of the Spirit to fulfil His ministry.

There's a lot to learn from Jesus' example. Before Jesus set out on His calling, his "resolution", He followed the Holy Spirit's leading and went through a season of testing or being made new.

This time of being made new, empowered Him with the Spirit.

This new year, in all we do, let us lean on Christ and seek to be emboldened by the Holy Spirit. Let us expect trials if we want to expect success and I know that He will guide us into successful transformation.

- Connor Bergen

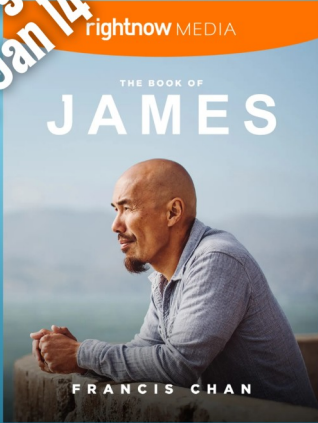


Adult Bible Study
2nd & 4th Tuesday
7 pm

New Study!
Starting Jan 14

rightnow MEDIA

THE BOOK OF
JAMES



FRANCIS CHAN

All are welcome!

GRACE YOUTH

Welcome to 2025!! I hope you had a great couple of weeks off, enjoying Christmas and New Year celebrations.

This Next Week:

- Jr. Youth Small Groups (Jan. 6)
 - Small Group leaders will be in touch
- Sr. Youth Small Groups (Jan. 8)
 - Small Group leaders will be in touch

Reminder:

- Sr. Youth retreat registration forms are available from the link in the parent email. Please sign up as soon as possible.

As always, don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

- Pastor Brad

Sunday School

Just a reminder that there is no Sunday School this Sunday, Jan 5th. See you back on January 12th.

If you would like to re-watch the Sunday School Christmas Concert, or share it with your family who was unable to attend, contact Wendy for the link.

The Sunday School Team

Ashley Fehr- ashleyfehr89@gmail.com

Jodi Wiebe- jodimwiebe@gmail.com

Witness Ministries

New Year's Opportunities:

Missions is looking for several more people to sign write to one of our foreign missionaries. Currently none of our missionaries have a full slate of writers. If you sign up, you will only be writing/e-mailing one individual or family about 3 times each year. With a team of 4 or 5 writers that would mean our missionaries hear from us 12-15 times a year. This team will be their Grace small group. Writing to our missionaries has many positive benefits: they feel encouraged & supported and there are some familiar faces when they come back to Grace. We also benefit. We have the opportunity to build a friendship, hear first hand what is happening in a particular mission field, know what to pray for, and be encouraged by the things God is doing. (Did you notice? We actually get more benefits. Count, if you don't believe me.) If you are interested or would like to know more, contact Lori Friesen at sourplums@hotmail.com or (204)312-1044.

There is also the opportunity to sit on the Salem Board as the Grace Church Representative. As partial owners, this is a requirement. It also benefits Grace Church to know in advance about needs, plans and projects. Karl Hariraj will not continue in this role when his term expires in June. On behalf of Grace, we would like to thank Karl for his service. Please prayerfully consider if this is an area which you could serve in. If you have questions, please contact Renee Klassen or any of the missions team.

We are still looking for someone to represent Grace Church on the Salem Auxiliary. If you are interested, contact Renee or the one of the missions team.

Young Adults

The next Young Adults Bible Study night is January 10th at 7:00 pm at James & Renee's.

Prayer and Praise

Pray for our shut-ins and those with on-going health issues:

At Home:

- Marie Klassen
- Katherine Krahn
- Anne Enns
- Margaret Ayala
- Linda Jenkins
- Irene Hildebrand
- Gladys Wiebe
- Dennis Wiebe
- Alexander Sauer
- Agnes Giesbrecht
- Marie Brown
- Marilyn Hildebrand
- Marian Harder
- Allan Derksen
- Helene Kuhl
- Walter Siemens
- Bill Zacharias

In Swan Lake: Elva Hildebrand
Helen Loepky