

"...your God will come..."



he will come to save you."

Isaiah 35:4

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

222 Boulder Drive, Gallup, NM 87301

Sunday School - 9:00 AM

Youth Group - 6:00 PM

Worship Service - 10:15 AM

Edge - 6:00 PM

Prayer Time - 6:00 PM

John W. Luginbuhl, Pastor

Steve Yoder, Youth Pastor

Church Office: (505) 722-5114

Pastor's E-mail: john@gracebiblegallup.org

Youth Pastor's E-mail: forevertrustinghim@yahoo.com

www.gracebiblegallup.org

Grace Bible Church
~ The Lord's Day ~
December 4, 2016

WELCOME

9:00 AM
10:15 AM

Sunday School for all ages
Worship Service

Praise & Worship
Welcome/Announcements
Offering (Special Music)*
Scripture Reading

Genesis 3:1-19

Message

John Luginbuhl

"Christmas: Back to the Beginning!"

The Lord's Table
Closing

*Children age 3 -grade 4 will be dismissed to Children's Church after
Special Music.

SERVING IN THE NURSERY TODAY:

Crawlers: Erica Hamilton & Madison Sutliff

Walkers: Holly Knox & Zach Yale

SERVING IN THE NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY:

Crawlers: Autumn Peralto & Zach Yale

Walkers: Andrea Butler & Anjelika Vasquet

LATER TODAY...

6:00 PM Prayer Time

6:00 PM Youth Group (grades 6-12) meets

6:00 PM Edge Group (ages 18-25) meets

WE WELCOME YOU!

There are many good reasons for coming to church, but we hope that your joining us this morning includes the best reason: to thank and worship God for His amazing love revealed in the birth, life, and ministry, the suffering and death, and the wondrous resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! This is what our church is all about! If you are visiting today, please fill out a guest card and bring it to our Welcome Center in the foyer and receive a free gift. Thank you ... and visit us again!

The mission of our church is to prayerfully
prepare believers for worshiping God, serving
Christ, loving one another, and
reaching out to others!

2016 YEAR VERSE:

"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."

- I Corinthians 16:13



WE INVITE YOU TO PARTAKE of the Lord's Table this morning - whether you are a visitor or regular-attender - if you are trusting Jesus Christ alone for salvation and if there is no known unconfessed sin in your life.



A LIST of December birthdays and anniversaries of GBC regular-attenders and missionaries is on the kitchen door. Please make legible additions/corrections right on the list. Thank you!



LADIES' CHRISTMAS BANQUET
SATURDAY, DEC. 10, 5 PM
PLEASE READ TODAY'S INSERT &
SIGN UP AT THE TABLE IN THE FOYER!

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING! Dec. 19, 6:45 PM



- Meet at church and dress warmly!
 - Bring the whole family!
 - Refreshments after caroling.
-

DIDN'T RECEIVE YOUR COPY of the December issue of our "in-house" newsletter, "Grace Notes"? Copies are available for you at the Welcome Center as well as various places around the church.

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED to begin thinking about and praying about a "Year Verse" for our church for 2017! Suggestions can be written out (please include which version of the Bible) and given to Pastor John, placed in the offering plate, or e-mailed to Pastor John at john@gracebiblegallup.org. Thank you!

This Week in Church History...

On December 8, 1981, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of student organizations holding religious services at public colleges and universities. This was one of the most significant rulings by the high court on the issue of separation of church and state in several years.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

"It was to save sinners that Christ came into the world. He did not come to help them to save themselves, nor to induce them to save themselves, nor even to enable them to save themselves. He came to save them.

~ William Hendricksen

PRAISE & PETITION



“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant.”

~ Zacharias, in Luke 1:68,69

Praise the Lord for:

1. The One Who is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ Our Savior!
2. His sovereignty over all people and events of history.
3. The wonderful Christmas season and the opportunities to tell others the real meaning of Christmas!
4. The so-great salvation that is ours through faith in Jesus Christ! Praise the Lord for His redemption of sinners like us who trust Him as Savior!

Petition the Lord for:

1. A “wake-up call” for our church in the area of evangelism; opportunities during the Christmas season to share our faith in Jesus with family and friends.
2. Strength and encouragement for those who are lonely during these holiday seasons.
3. Those in our church going through difficult times.
4. Couples being married in the next four months: Keith Saunders and Emily Piraino (Dec. 17); Alex DenBleyker and Tyler McKennon (Dec. 28); Steve Yoder and Jackie Lawrence (March 19).
5. Danny Garcia, as he is at CDC (Cortez).
6. Sean Begaye, in Afghanistan; Adam Sowers (Ft. Hood); Kyle Prendergast (Ophelia Krupica’s son), stationed (Air Force) in Germany; Jesus, Jessalyn, and Nora Ubanda (Okinawa, Japan); Whitney Pratt (Air Force); Jared Payton (Tucson, AZ)
7. Our President, military advisors, military men and women.
8. Those who need the Lord’s healing touch:
 - Jeremy Richardson (brain tumor)
 - Eliza Jonkman (Schells’ granddaughter)
 - Teddy Orr (recuperating)
 - Steve Tobey: kidney issues
 - Shirley Marshall (Good Samaritan, Grants)
 - Alan Cumiford (asthma; general health)
 - Chance Harvey (Marlene Henry’s brother-in-law); in burn unit

“Christmas: Back to the Beginning!”

Genesis 3:1-19

As the “Christmas season” is upon us, it is appropriate for us to ask why we have it in the first place. Back in the days when there were only two people living on earth (there are now over 7 billion!), something happened that gave us the reason to celebrate what we now know as “Christmas”!

1. Introducing ... Sin!

2. The Results of Sin

3. The Protoevangelium

This Week at Grace Bible...

(Here at the church unless otherwise noted.)

Monday, December 5

7:00 PM

Life Group at Luginbuhls' (303 Cactus Road)
"Getting Ready for Jesus' Return!"
[No Life Group on 12/26 or 1/2]

Tuesday, December 6

9:30 AM

Ladies' Bible Study; nursery provided
Study: "Heaven" by Randy Alcorn

6:30 PM

Faith Bible Institute

Wednesday, December 7

6:30 PM

AWANA

(Don't forget your "Toys for Tots" toy!)

Saturday, December 10

8:00 AM

Men's Breakfast @ Don Diego's Restaurant

5:00 PM

Ladies' Christmas Banquet at BABR

Sunday, December 11

(During AM Service)

Harpist Amy Shreve and husband Gary
Wixtrom with us!

COMING SOON:

December 17

Keith Saunders / Emily Piraino Wedding

December 19

All-Church Christmas Caroling (6:45 PM)

December 25

Christmas Morning Worship Service (10:15 AM)
(No Sunday School or afternoon/evening
ministries or activities.)

December 27-30

Winter Youth Retreat (teens 13 & up) at Broken
Arrow Bible Ranch

December 28

Alex DenBleyker / Tyler McKennon Wedding



Please join us for the
annual Ladies Christmas
Banquet!

Important things to know:

This event costs \$7 per person to cover the cost of the delicious food being served.

Bring a scarf for the Christmas gift exchange. This is a fun way to exchange gifts and get a new scarf!

Date:

Saturday, December 10th

Time:

5:00 pm

Meet at the church @ 4:15 if you would like to carpool.



Place: Broken Arrow Bible Ranch

significant news for christians

Some news that's encouraging—some disturbing. Read with discernment. Watch and pray.

THE Church Around the WORLD

December 2016



Country in Focus: Liechtenstein (1)

Liechtenstein—a tiny country of 62 square miles nestled between Switzerland and Austria—is home to nearly 40,000 people. The country is wealthy through diversified industry, including manufacturing, banking, and tourism. Nearly 30 percent of state revenue comes from “letterbox” companies registered in Liechtenstein (attracted by extremely low tax rates) but operating elsewhere. Lax monetary controls have led to some money-laundering scandals, and the country has taken great pains not to be seen as a blacklisted tax haven. Freedom of religion is guaranteed, and the Catholic Church has traditionally been the state church. Many Catholics are nominal believers, while most evangelical believers are expatriates.

Pray for:

- Encounters with the gospel to increase as the immigrant population grows;
- Stability and growth in the first and only evangelical fellowship, established in 1985 following an evangelistic campaign launched by British, Norwegian, and Swiss believers;
- The work of Cru (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ), which operates a small office in Liechtenstein.



Atheist Group Sues over County Seal Cross (2)

An atheist group has filed a lawsuit against Lehigh County in Pennsylvania because the county's flag and seal depict a cross. The Freedom From Religion Foundation, along with four residents of the county, filed the lawsuit claiming the image of the cross violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

“It is well settled law that government entities may not include religious images on their official seals,” said the foundation's staff attorney. “Lehigh County is a pluralistic community that includes persons of minority faiths and of no religion. We look forward to the county redesigning the seal to come into compliance with the First Amendment.”

However, county commissioners have unanimously voted to oppose the removal of the cross from the flag and seal. “It is the position of Lehigh County that the presence of the cross on the seal among all the other items of historical significance has the secular purpose of recognizing the history of the county,” read part of the letter from the Lehigh County commissioners.

Ancient Dialect of Aramaic Being Revived (3)

The language spoken by Jesus during his time on earth, an ancient dialect of Aramaic, is currently being revived in Syria. Assyrian Neo-Aramaic, or

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Syriac, will be taught at the Ourhi Center in Qamishli. Before the Syrian civil war broke out in 2011, it was illegal to teach any language except Arabic in Syria. "Learning the Syriac-Assyrian language would help us better understand our culture and history in order to pass this knowledge to the next generations and guarantee them learning their mother-tongue," said Mirna Saliba, a student learning Syriac at the center.

Persecution of Indian Christians Increases Dramatically ⁽⁴⁾

At least 134 incidents of violence against Christians in India were carried out in the first half of 2016 alone, compared with 147 incidents in all of 2014 and 177 in 2015, according to an independent report. The Evangelical Fellowship of India's Religious Liberty Commission notes that cases were "just a fraction of the violence on the ground."

Physical violence, arrests on false allegations, and disruption of church services

were frequent crimes, with attacks on churches, vandalism, and threats also recurring. One person was reported to have been murdered because of his faith.

In many incidents, Christians were accused of conversion by force or allurement and charged under the so-called Freedom of Religion Acts after they were harassed and threatened. The acts, popularly known as anti-conversion laws, declare conversion by force, allurement, or fraudulent means to be criminal. Radical Hindu groups have reportedly used these laws to falsely implicate Christians.

China Joins Countries Restricting NGOs ⁽⁵⁾

Nearly 20 percent of the world's population could lose access to the ministry efforts of Western Christians next year due to new restrictions. Last spring, China passed regulations that will affect its more than 7,000 foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) by requiring that they register with the local police and find an in-country partner. China also banned foreign



This month you can... Pray for the Persecuted Church

Around the world, many believers are persecuted—imprisoned, even killed—for their faith. Right now 200 million people face persecution for believing in Jesus, and 60 percent of those are children, according to Christians in Crisis International Ministry, a prayer advocacy ministry for persecuted believers.

Because much of the New Testament was written to persecuted believers, it is filled with examples of how to pray for our brothers and sisters under attack. Here are

five suggestions from the book of Ephesians:

- Pray persecuted believers would know the hope God gives (1:18).
- Pray the Holy Spirit would strengthen them (3:16).
- Pray they would know how much God loves them (3:17).
- Pray they would know how to share the gospel (6:19).
- Pray they would fearlessly tell others about Jesus (6:20).

In addition, here are some practical needs persecuted believers would love your

prayers for:

- Access to a Bible
- The courage to remain in their homeland
- A new Christian "family" for those who have been rejected by family and friends
- Advocates for women who are socially vulnerable or have lost the custody of their children because of their faith
- Jobs and safe places to live

Learn more ways to pray for the persecuted church and read news alerts on current crises by visiting www.persecution.org.



NGOs from engaging in or funding religious activities. The measure could expel Christian groups that are doing medical, developmental, or educational work in the world's largest country by population, with 1.4 billion people.

China's move is significant because of the number of people affected, but other countries—such as Russia and India—have been moving in this direction for years. While the laws vary, they often regulate overseas funding and the number of working visas an NGO can offer. Some require regular—and occasionally onerous—registration with the government. For example, India now requires NGOs to report foreign donations within 15 days and to confirm that the money is not used for activities “likely to prejudicially affect the . . . interests of the state.” Since Narendra Modi became prime minister in 2014, India has cut off foreign funding from more than 13,000 NGOs.

Stephen Offutt, a professor at Asbury Theological Seminary who studies faith-based international development, notes that most of the time, government regulations aren't targeting Christian organizations. “Governments often have a cooperative relationship with NGOs, but that also makes the NGOs vulnerable,” said Offutt. “When NGOs start to say things that the governments don't like, governments get nervous and sometimes feel that it's in their interest for the NGOs to be restricted.” When these governments begin to regulate foreign NGOs, Christian groups can be caught in the cross fire.

US Has Welcomed 30,000 Muslim Refugees This Year ⁽²⁾

According to a Pew Research Center analysis of State Department data, nearly half of the more than 63,000 refugees welcomed into the United States in the first ten months of the 2016 fiscal year were Muslim, with a majority of new Muslim arrivals coming from the war-torn countries of Syria and Somalia.

The Pew analysis says the US received 28,957 Muslim refugees between October 2015 and August 2016—46 percent of the total number of refugees entering the country. This marks the highest number of Muslim refugees the United States has received since 2002, the first year for which data on self-reported religious affiliations among refugees is available. Most of these new arrivals came from Syria (8,511) and Somalia (7,234), two countries with predominantly Muslim populations that have been ripped apart by civil war. Others came from Iraq (6,071), Burma (Myanmar) (2,554), Afghanistan (1,948), and other countries (2,639).

The Pew analysis found that nearly as many Christian refugees—27,556—entered the country during the same period. Over the past 15 years, 46 percent of all refugees welcomed in the United States were Christian, while 32 percent were Muslim.

Faith communities from multiple religions have regularly spoken up as advocates for refugees. At least six faith-based organizations,

from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, work closely with the government to help refugees resettle and adjust to living in the United States.

Campaign Attempts to Block Pisa Mosque ⁽⁶⁾

A campaign to block construction of a new mosque near the Leaning Tower of Pisa imperils Italy's commitment to religious freedom, warn those who defend Muslims' right to build it. The proposed mosque, a few hundred yards from the world-famous tower, has been approved by Pisa's city council, but opponents say it is too close to the tower, one of Italy's top tourist attractions. Opponents also fear it could radicalize local Muslims.

"Today we are at war whether you like it or not and we have to fight it with whatever we have," said Daniela Santanche, a lawmaker from the center-right Forza Italia party who joined protesters. "Mosques should be closed, not opened, because they are not places of worship but places that preach hatred."

Those leading the "No Mosque" campaign say they have gathered more than 2,000 signatures, which they claim is enough for a referendum to overturn the council decision. But Izzedin Elzir, the president of the Union of Italian Islamic Communities, said any referendum would be "unconstitutional" and threaten Muslims' religious freedom. The mayor of Pisa, Marco Filippeschi, said any move to block the project would be in contravention of freedom of worship, which is enshrined in the Italian constitution.

Cuba Still No Friend to Faith ⁽⁷⁾

The restoration of diplomatic ties between the United States and Cuba in 2015 has reportedly not yet improved human rights or religious freedom abuses for Cubans. Instead, some watchdog groups say the repression increased in 2016, and they called on other countries to pressure Cuba over its actions.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) reports Cuban authorities cracked down on Christians during the first half of the year, increasing church demolitions and harassing worshippers. Authorities also continued to use a zoning law to seize church property.

CSW's new report reveals that from January through June, Cuba committed 1,606 separate religious freedom violations including church demolitions, destruction of church property, arrests without warrants, house arrests, detentions, harassment, and more. In 2015, the government declared 2,000 Assemblies of God churches illegal and began trying to confiscate property from 1,400 of them. The churches remain in danger of seizure in spite of verbal commitments to the contrary.

In 2016, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom again placed Cuba on its Tier 2 watch list of countries that violate religious rights because of continued government threats against churches, harassment of religious leaders, government controls, and surveillance of religious groups. Cuba has been on Tier 2 since 2004.

To check out books and other church resources, please visit www.TyndaleDirect.com.

The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

ROMANS 8:26