
December 2019

Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church

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From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Has it ever happened to you before... you're rushing out the door to go somewhere in a hurry. You grab your coat, some items to mail at the post office, a check to cash at the bank, an item to return from the store, your phone, and your coffee... only to sit in your car and realize that you forgot you KEYS! When we rush too far ahead of ourselves it's easy to forget things that are important.

That's also true when it comes to the Christmas season. The world around us wants to rush ahead to Christmas – certainly with a materialistic emphasis on gifts to be purchased. In contrast to that stands the Christian Church. In the Church we s-l-o-w d-o-w-n in our preparations for Christmas through a season called **ADVENT**. Its 4 weeks of pause and reflection to prepare our hearts and minds for just what Christmas means. This year it is especially meaningful because there are exactly 25 days from the start of Advent (Sunday, Dec. 1st) to Christmas (Dec. 25th).

One way that Christians take their minds off the things of the world while preparing their hearts for Christmas is through worship. Our midweek Advent services at Grace this year (Dec. 4, 11, and 18 at 7 pm) will focus on “**Powerful Promises from Mighty Micah**” – using the familiar Advent passage of Micah 5:2-5. Slowing down to reflect on the promises given through the prophet Micah helps us to appreciate the fullness of the gift of Jesus Christ – the true reason for Christmas.

Christians of all ages use **Advent calendars** during Advent as another way to help us to slow down and prepare. The gradual opening of boxes or revealing of flaps helps to build the anticipation of the season – while also disclosing several of the themes of the Advent season. These special calendars – along with lighting an Advent wreath in the home – can ideally be used to bring daily devotions into the home.

December is already here. It's going to fly by and be gone before you know it! But before it does, be encouraged to pause and prepare yourself during Advent.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

November Official Pastoral Acts:

- 4 sick/shut-in visits
- 3 private communions
- 6 hospital visits
- 2 family visitations
- 2 pastoral care visits
- 1 circuit visitor activity
- 1 evangelism contact
- 1 funeral (*Pat Best*)

Upcoming Sermon Texts	
Dec. 1	Isaiah 63:15-19
Dec. 8	Isaiah 64:1-4
Dec. 15	Isaiah 64:5-7
Dec. 22	Isaiah 64:8-12
Dec. 29	Matthew 2:13-23

Message from the President

This is the time of the year when we celebrate the greatest blessing we have been given by God. The birth of our Savior. It is a good time to reflect on all the blessings God has bestowed on us and to renew our efforts to spread that joy to those around us.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and thanks to all who have served with me on council. We have accomplished much that needed to get done during my tenure which would not have occurred without the effort of each individual member. I leave knowing that the future of Grace is in capable hands.

Worship News

Our annual **Thanksgiving Eve service** on November 21st was a wonderful chance to sing God's praises, give back, and recall the value of contentment. **45 non-perishable food items** were collected for the local Oberlin Community Services Center for those in need.

Advent officially begins on Sunday, December 1st. We will have 3 midweek Advent services on December 4, 11, and 18 with a soup & sandwich supper beforehand (at 6 pm) and worship at 7 pm. Join us for good food, fellowship, and faith upbuilding.

We will be having one **Christmas Eve candlelight** worship service with Holy Communion at 7 pm.

Evangelism News

Coming soon ... brand-new **Grace Lutheran Church PENS!!!** As part of our church outreach effort the pens are yours to share with others, offering an opportunity to talk about our church and invite people to learn more.

Buildings & Grounds Items

- Repairs to parsonage and Fellowship Hall are ongoing.
- The mower donated 2 years ago has been hauled away.
- Leaves were raked and snow-markers put in place.
- Be careful walking on new parking lot, as black ice is hard to see and can be dangerous.

Altar Guild News

Altar Guild will be offering poinsettias to purchase to decorate the chancel area for Christmas. The cost will be \$5.00 each. The deadline for ordering will be December 1. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Please place your money in an envelope marked "poinsettia" in the offering plate.

The 2019 Altar Guild Schedule has been emailed. I will post the schedule in the sacristy. Thank you to all our devoted ladies that serve on Altar Guild.

We are still looking to add a few new members to our team. If you are interested in serving on Altar Guild please contact Robin Turnbull.

Serving in December: 1– Karen Huston
 8 & 15 – Robin Turnbull
 22 & 29—Colleen Karp

Thank you to all who helped to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season!

~ Robin

Lutheran Women's League News

The LWL met on Nov.5, 2019 to distribute profits from this year's Rummage/Bake sale. Shares from the \$769.79 profits were given to; Oberlin Community Center, The Road to Hope House, Redeemer Crisis Center and Mission Central- Dominican Republic Missions at \$100 each. \$75 each was given to Valor House for Women Veterans and Valor House for Men Veterans. The \$250 being held for a new copier for the last 3 years was returned to the LWL treasury.

I would like to thank EVERYONE who helped set-up, clean-up, serve, and make food for all the funerals recently held at Grace.

~ Bonnie

Voters' Meeting Recap

- The November Quarterly Voters' Meeting was held on Nov. 17 with **22** members attending.
- All the regular reports were given from Pastor, Elders, Buildings & Grounds, Treasurer, Vice-President, Church Safety Team, LWL, and Altar Guild.
- Pastor Josh thanked **Ron Mertz** for his time and service over the years as an Elder.
- Sue Walker will be printing **individual giving statements** for 2019 only upon request.
- Fred thanked **Kert Limpert** for his service and leadership as Council President.
- **Fred Feddeck** was elected Council President and **Bob Scherry** was elected Evangelism Deacon – the only two people who had accepted a nomination this year.
- **Speakers** for the nursery and kitchen will soon be installed, so that people who are in them can still hear the worship service.
- The changes to the church **constitution** from August were approved a second time (as required in our constitution).
- 6 people were removed from membership at Grace for various reasons (such as continued inactivity, whereabouts unknown, and transfer to another Lutheran congregation).
- The Voters decided to pay off the rest of the church **mortgage** with funds donated by Jake Luikart, due to changes in interest rates and uncertainty about future changes.
- The Voters approved the proposed **2020 Budget**.
- Further details from the meeting can be found in the **official November Voters' Meeting minutes**, which will be posted shortly on the hallway bulletin board.

December Birthdays

Melanie Huston	12/01
Robin Jones	12/02
Megan Swanzer	12/10
Glen Fridenstine	12/11
Kim Thomas	12/13
Erin Laux	12/18
John Kristoff	12/20
Rachael Koch	12/26
Ray Hines	12/30

* If we accidentally forgot your birthday or anniversary, please tell Pastor and we'll add it to our list.

ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO COUNT SUNDAY COLLECTIONS IN 2020

Mrs. Abicht (Bonnie) and I would like to have a “Counters’ Schedule” ready by the second Sunday in December (8th) for 2020. Accordingly, listed below are those members of Grace Lutheran Church who have volunteered this past year to contribution their time and effect for this necessary and confidential service to the support of GLC. It is deeply appreciated by pastor and the members of the church council.

Should you wish to serve again in 2020, please let either Bonnie or Fred know your flexibility for the upcoming year. If there’s a particular month---or months--- you will NOT be available, so indicate same to one of us. If you have no objection, we will try to keep the same 2-person teams together---provided you decide to continue to count Sunday collections in 2020. As you know, we work in 1-month increments. E.g. if you are scheduled for May, you count all Sundays in May.

You will be responsible for making that Sunday’s collection deposit. Please also remember that our primary bank is Huntington in Oberlin, NOT Northwest in Oberlin. There is a “night” depository we use alongside the front entrance to the bank. It’s very simple!

For anyone interested who hasn’t counted collections before, it takes c. 20-25 minutes each Sunday immediately after the service. Bonnie or I will assist you and your counting partner the first 2 weeks. After that, you won’t need us. Please think about joining us.

Fred C. Feddeck
Cell phone: (914) 419-5316 OR Use Church mailbox

CURRENT COUNTERS:

Bonnie Abicht, Fred C. Feddeck, Glen Fridenstine, Barbara Hadaway, Colleen Karp, Lisa Lalonde, Kert Limpert, Jan Limpert, Ron Mertz, Marcia Metzger and...YOU?

Coffee fellowship in December:

- 1 Marcia Metzger
- 8 Kathy Knipper
- 15 Rachael Koch
- 22 Robin Turnbull
- 29 Carolyn Husted

Hosting the **Free Hot Meal:**

Sue Walker & Carolyn Husted
on Saturday, Dec. 21st

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am 	2	3	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soup & Sandwich Supper 6 pm • Advent Service 7 pm 	5	6	7
8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am 	9	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soup & Sandwich Supper 6 pm • Advent Service 7 pm 	12	13	14
15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am 	16	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCS Food Box Delivery 2 pm 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soup & Sandwich Supper 6 pm • Advent Service 7 pm 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm 	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Hot Meal 5 pm
22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship 10 am 	23	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 pm 	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship 10 am 	30	31		Upcoming Important Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 1: January newsletter items due • January 5: Council Installation 		