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APRIL 2021

# Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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*“Grace Lutheran Church is a family united by faith in Christ,  
which seeks to grow in that faith and to share it with others.”*

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## From the Pastor’s Desk . . .

John Wooden was arguably the greatest college basketball coach of all time. He is quoted as saying, **“The main ingredient of stardom is the rest of the team.”** (His teams won 7 national championships in a row – so he knows a thing or two about all this...)

What’s true of basketball teams is often true of companies, families, and especially **congregations**. This past month many of you watched one of the Lent worship service videos from Grace. You see me up front and everything seems to be running pretty smooth. But let me assure you, this is not a “one man operation.” It takes a whole team to put things together. I’m always reminded of that during Lent. There are plenty of people to thank, such as:

- our **organist**, who plays the wide variety of Holy Week hymns with increasing skill and meaning.
- our **cameraman**, who records each service – knowing just when to zoom over here or pan over there.
- our **acolyte**. She’s been doing a great job, but Good Friday is the most involved service for lighting and extinguishing the candles. She did wonderfully.
- our **Sunday School teacher**, who has been doing a fantastic job trying to share the stories of Jesus to the little children in a way that they can connect to and remember.

- our **Council**, who has been taking care of details large and small, dealing with immediate needs while also considering long-range items.
- our **Altar Guild**, who do a fantastic job of decorating (and re-decorating) the church during Holy Week in a way that enriches our meditation and worship of Christ.
- our **church sign crew**, who made sure to advertise to all the people of Oberlin that we were one of the few churches in town “open for business/worship” during Holy Week.

There’s others I could mention, but I imagine you get the idea. ***Our church is a family united by faith in Christ, which seeks to grow in that faith and share it with others*** – and for that to happen it takes a bunch of people working together like a team. Lent is always a reminder of that, because the people referenced above always have to do extra during Lent – in order to make it a successful opportunity for spiritual growth and development.

Lest we get carried away, though, let me remind us all (including myself!) that **the most important part of the “Grace team” is Christ Jesus our Lord!** He is the head of the Church (Eph. 1:22-23) and the one who can take our bumbling efforts and use them to make an eternal difference in His Kingdom. HE is the One who makes all the difference.

And yet, as we remember from our Lutheran Sanctification theology, our Lord calls us into His service and uses us in all sorts of ways and all sorts of vocations. We need people willing to help out and serve God at Grace – and throughout the world.

Let me close by looking ahead for a moment. In the months to come as things open up in Ohio and at Grace and more people are able to return to Grace and more people are able to get involved and do more things – we will need volunteers to do just that...(get involved and do things). We will need people like you. People who are part of this family/team of God’s at Grace.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

**PS** I’m still looking for next month’s “*GOOD NEWS Stories About What GOD Has Been Doing Among Us.*” If you have one, no matter how big or small, **please** share it with me sometime this month! Thank you.

## Worship Information

This month we continue with all of our previous worship guidelines and protocols (masks, social distancing, roped off pews, not using hymnals, etc.)

Every Wednesday Pastor will be offering **Private Communion** at church from 1:00-2:30 pm and 7:00-8:00 pm. People can contact Pastor ahead of time to “reserve” a time, but “drop-ins” are also welcome.

Remember, **Sunday School materials** (for kids in the Children’s Church age-range) continue to be available each week for parents to use to teach their children every Sunday. You’ll find them on our church website.

### March Official Pastoral Acts:

- 2 private communions
- 5 leadership meetings
- 1 circuit visitor activity
- 1 shut-in visit
- 1 evangelism contact

| Upcoming Sermon Texts |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| April 4               | Mark 16:1-8   |
| April 11              | John 20:19-31 |
| April 18              | Mark 7:31-37  |
| April 25              | Mark 4:35-41  |
| May 2                 | Mark 6:45-56  |

## President's Message

“Happy Easter” to one and all!

As a young boy, I remember putting on my best clothes and attending church services on Easter with my mother and 2 younger brothers. My father was a fireman and often worked on Eastertide. If my father didn't have an extended tour of duty, we'd wait until he came home to eat dinner. Afterward, we'd have hard-boiled egg contests and 1 year, tired of often not winning, I froze my egg in the freezer. My father was told what I had done and I was “forced” to eat the damn egg immediately. I've always hated hard-boiled eggs since that time; another good reason why I also detest “devil eggs”!

Come to church on Easter with as many family members as possible. Receive Holy Communion as a family. After the solemnity of Grace's Easter Service, if unable to visit family because of the coronavirus, call your relatives to wish them “Happy Easter”! Easter is the premier feast day of the church year. Don't let it go to waste.

Respectfully,

Fred C. Feddeck

Quote of the month:

“The Lord has risen! He has risen, indeed”!

## Buildings & Grounds Update

- Getting estimates on the **church roof**. Have called insurance company to make a claim due to hail damage. Apparently, there has been some damage in the past per estimator.
- Getting estimates on replacing **sanitary sewer** from rear of parsonage to the street.
- **New flooring** estimate in the parsonage is between \$4000-\$5000.
- Contract has been signed to have the front of the sanctuary (inside) **painted** and high chancel lights replaced.
- New **light bulbs** installed in hallway and Fellowship Hall.

- Dale Rider -

| <u>April Birthdays</u> |      | <u>April Anniversaries</u> |      |
|------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|
| Debbie Burt            | 4/4  | Kert & Jan Limpert         | 4/7  |
| Dale Swanzer           | 4/14 | Ray & Beverly Hines        | 4/16 |
| Britney Swanzer        | 4/21 | Ron & Diane Senyak         | 4/26 |
| Jan Koepp              | 4/25 | John & Jan Kristoff        | 4/28 |
| John Knipper           | 4/27 |                            |      |
| Robin Turnbull         | 4/28 |                            |      |

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

## Volunteers Needed

- We are looking for someone to be in charge of organizing and updating the **bulletin boards** at Grace. If you might be willing please talk to Pastor Josh.
- We are looking for someone who is good with computer programs like Excel, who can assemble our **2021 Church Directory** and make it look *nice*. If you might be able please talk to Fred Feddeck or Pastor Josh.
- We are looking for people to serve as Sunday morning **Greeters** at church over the next few months. If you would be willing, please talk to Pastor Josh.
- Starting soon the grass will be growing and we'll need people to sign up to **mow the church lawn**. The church has riding and push mowers for that purpose. If you might be willing, talk to Dale Rider or sign-up on the sheet (to be posted soon) in the hallway.

## Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Foundations of Faith Class:** Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **Council Meeting:** Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **Elder's Meeting:** Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.
- **Private Communion Services:** Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30 pm and 7:00-8:00 pm.
- **April Newsletter Articles Due:** Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

## Altar Guild Items

Thank you to all those who provided **Easter lilies** for us to use to decorate the church on Easter Sunday: **John & Kathy Knipper, Pastor & Jen Moldenhauer, Anita Saathoff, and Robin & Glenn Turnbull.**

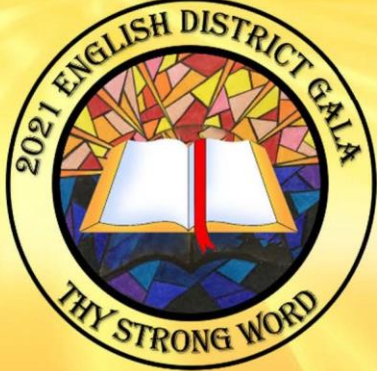
~ Robin ~

# GRACE 2021 Service Schedule

\*\*\*PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A REPLACEMENT SHOULD YOU BE UNABLE TO SERVE\*\*\*

| DATE              | USHER       | ACOLYTE   | GREETER           | Counters          | Altar Guild    |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Apr. 4            | Dale Rider  | Sydney W. | Lisa Lalonde      | Fred F. & Lisa L. | Robin Turnbull |
| Apr. 11, 18       | Paul Castle | Sydney W. | Karen Fridenstine | Fred F. & Andy K. | Carolyn Husted |
| Apr. 25,<br>May 2 | Dale Rider  | Sydney W. | Lisa Lalonde      | Fred F. & Glen F. | Colleen Karp   |

## English District News



**THY STRONG WORD**  
*An on-line Virtual Gala of fun, fellowship and gracious giving.*

**DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR DISTRICT IS KNOWN FOR MISSIONS?**  
 The English District is made up of congregations across the United States and Canada. This allows the District to partner *together* for amazing mission opportunities. At the Virtual Gala, learn more about these missions in YOUR district, enjoy fellowship with others in the district and consider becoming a partner in ministry. Join us online for **THY STRONG WORD**, the 2021 English District Virtual Gala on June 13, 2021. Read *Servant to Servant* to stay connected with updates.

Also, if you haven't already done so, consider signing up for the English District's weekly "Servant-to-Servant" announcements. Just last month it featured OUR CONGREGATION as one of the campus ministries in the English District. To sign up, go to:

<https://englishdistrict.org/enews>

## LCMS National News

At the **February Voters' Meeting** we voted to delay the district and national conventions for a year due to the pandemic. Well, it seems we weren't alone! The votes have all been counted and an overwhelming majority of other LCMS congregations said the same thing. As a result, the English District convention won't be held until 2022, and the Synodical Convention until 2023. You can read a fuller account of the story by reading the "Reporter" article posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board – or by clicking on the following link:

<https://reporter.lcms.org/2021/congregations-vote-to-delay-synod-convention/>