
FEBRUARY 2021

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

310 West Lorain Street,
Oberlin, OH. 44074
440-775-3271

Pastor Josh Moldenhauer
Graceoberlinpastor@gmail.com

www.gracechurchoberlin.wordpress.com

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

From the Pastor’s Desk . . .

“*We’re going to do things a little different this year...*” You’ve probably heard that line so often in so many contexts the past months you’re numb (and tired of it). However, here it comes again! 😊 **Lent** comes quickly this year. It starts on Ash Wednesday, which is Feb. 17th. Normally we’d have midweek services every Wednesday in Lent, with a supper together for an extra opportunity for fellowship and nourishment. This is, of course, not a normal year. So we’re going to try something a little different. We will have a 7 pm worship service on Ash Wednesday – complete with the **Imposition of Ashes** and **Holy Communion**. (This will remind us of our human nature, while strengthening our spiritual nature.) Then, for the following weeks of Lent we won’t be having midweek services or mailing out special devotional booklets to each household. Instead, I will continue to write and email out daily family devotions. This will be a time to highlight together the meaning and significance of what Christ did and accomplished here on earth.

So then it’s very fitting that the sermon series for Lent will be “*The PASSION of Jesus in Mark.*” During Epiphany we’ve focused on “*The PERSON of Jesus in Mark*” and now we turn to the focus and climax of His life and mission. For this we will be using readings from the **Gospel of Mark**.

Now in several ways **Mark** is the often-forgotten Gospel. It's the shortest and lacks something of the cosmological and mystical depth of John and the thorough connection to the Old Testament found in Matthew. Looking through my old sermons recently I was convicted by how infrequently I have preached on Mark.

Having started to become better acquainted with Mark, I'm finding its an ideal one for us. The source of the text is largely sermons from the Apostle Peter (compiled by John Mark) – which lends itself nicely to preaching. It's a simple narrative focusing on ACTION – what Jesus did. The whole account answers two basic questions: first, **who is Jesus?** Second, **how do I respond to Him?** Those are timeless issues for us to wrestle with and answer aright in our own lives.

So stayed tuned....! As much as this year may be a little different, Lent should actually be rather much the same: devotional meditation on the deeds of Jesus that culminate with His death and resurrection, leading us in deeper devotion to willingly die and rise with Him.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

PS I would like to thank **James Feddeck** for “filling in” as our organist for December and January, and doing a phenomenal job (as always)!

January Official Pastoral Acts:

- 4 private communions
- 4 leadership meetings
- 2 pastoral care visits
- 1 circuit visitor activity

Upcoming Sermon Texts	
Feb. 7	Mark 8:11-26
Feb. 14	Mark 9:2-13
Feb. 17	Mark 1:14-20
Feb. 21	Mark 8:27-38
Feb. 28	Mark 9:30-41

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.

In December we started recording the worship services on **video** and then posting those videos online (instead of only pastor's sermon). We plan to continue this. **If you have any further feedback** or suggestions, please contact Pastor Josh.

Looking ahead: we will be celebrating Holy Week with a **Maundy Thursday** 7 pm worship service and a **Good Friday Tennebrae** worship service at 7 pm (April 1st and 2nd).

President's Message

One month down and 2 more wintery months to go! January's behind us and the weather wasn't as overbearing as many past winters had been. February portends to be a busy month, what with the start (?) of accumulating tax information for preparation of one's 2020 income tax return. Bet you wanted to hear that!

We also have a Voters' Assembly scheduled for February 14th immediately after Church Service. And in case you were wondering, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church---yes, our official name---is in solid financial stead. Our newly Council-appointed treasurer, Mr. Andrew Karp, will bring everyone up to date.

If you want your voice to be heard, please attend the February 14th Voters' Assembly. There are several important topics (Synod and District) that must be voted upon by members of Grace. The meeting should be no more than 1 hour.

Masks are still required to attend any church function and social distancing will also be observed.

Fred C. Feddeck

Thought for the month: "Spend more time with God's Book than with Facebook!"

P. S. Don't forget that February 14th is Valentine's Day!

TREASURER:

Option of direct deposit of Grace Church Sunday offerings will be explained at February Voters Meeting.

February Birthdays

Brandon Swanzer	2/3
Diane Senyak	2/3
Eva Horning	2/4
Jan Kristoff	2/4
Barb Hadaway	2/9
Carter Jones	2/10
Scott Dorrance	2/12
Myles Bremke	2/13
Lee Anne Christner	2/15
Kris Koepf	2/19

February Anniversaries

Dave & Marcia Metzger	2/1
Terry & Judy Gornek	2/20

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

Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Elder's Meeting:** Wednesday, February 3rd at 3:00 pm.
- **Private Communion Services:** Wednesday, February 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th from 1:00-2:30 pm and 7:00-8:00 pm.
- **Council Meeting:** Thursday, February 4th at 7 pm.
- **Voters' Meeting Packets Distributed:** Sunday, February 7th.
- **Quarterly Voters' Meeting:** Sunday, February 14th at 11:30 am.
- **Ash Wednesday Service:** Wednesday, February 17th at 7 pm.
- **March Newsletter Articles Due:** February 24, 2021

Socks for Flocks

You can drop-off socks, hats, coats, etc. in the big "Socks for Flocks" box in the narthex. The final deadline to contribute toward the Socks for Flocks program is February 7th. After that they will be taken to the Redeemer Crises Center in Cleveland and distributed to the less fortunate.

FLOWER ORDERING CHANGES

Effective March 1st, 2021

Continue to use the flower sign-up sheet so occasion can be recognized. Order flowers directly from Carlyle Gift and Flower Shop or any florist. If ordering from Carlyle, identify the order for Grace Lutheran for church pricing. Pay directly for flowers and delivery.

Carlyle Gift and Flower Shop

17 West College Street

Oberlin, Ohio 44074

(440) 775-3871

Pastor will be offering the **Foundations of Faith** class starting on Tuesday the 23rd at 7 pm. This is an 8 week class that meets every week for an hour to cover the basics/foundations of the Lutheran faith. It serves as the new member class for those who want to join our church, an intro class for those who want to learn more, and a "refresher" course for those who want to review the basic beliefs. We will be meeting in the church classroom. Masks are highly encouraged. If you might be interested, contact Pastor Josh so that adequate materials can be prepared.

Vaccine Update

Hoping this update finds you healthy and celebrating the end of 2020 with hope for a new and less turbulent 2021.

There is much talk about the virus, the vaccine and when and how to get it. So many differences in information from one state to another, even one county to another, can lead to confusion and misunderstanding. If you wish to get the vaccine, there are several places where you can receive it and registration is relatively easy. Currently, the biggest barrier seems to be lack of sufficient supply to meet the needs of those who want to get the vaccine.

In talking with several people who have received the vaccine, the side effects have been similar to what is often seen after getting any other vaccination. Namely, sore arm, maybe some joint or muscle aches, headache, and low grade fever, lasting 24-48 hours. This is indication of the body's immune system responding to the vaccine to make antibodies to protect you. More severe side effects have rarely occurred.

Ohio is currently in the Phase 1B stage for vaccine deployment. Most of those in 1A who wanted to get the vaccine have already done so. 1B includes people age 65 and above and those with certain disabilities or disorders. This week focused on those 75 years old and above. Next week is for those 70 and above. And Feb. 8th those age 65 and up are eligible.

For information, the following websites are most helpful:

www.loraincountyhealth.com Site lists local business locations offering vaccine administration and other websites for further information

coronavirus.ohio.gov Lists statewide information

www.aging.ohio.gov or phone 1-866-243-5678 Answers questions about the vaccination process

Stay safe and healthy,

Jan Koepp

GOOD NEWS Stories About What GOD Has Been Doing Among Us

On Friday evening, Dave went to announce a basketball game. Carter went as a ball boy. Reilly and David were playing video games online with their friends and Tim was helping me to put together an order for cabinetry when I received a phone call. While I did not recognize the number, I answered anyway. The caller asked if I was Jennifer Fehlan-Jones. I thought it was weird and questioned the man. He continued by diving right in to why he called. He asked, did I know there was a fire outside of my house by my new construction? The short of this story is that I did not know and the wind was blowing the flames within 2 feet of my new construction. We all spent the next hour and a half fighting a fire. We were lucky. God was watching us. He sent a willing man by my house. The man stopped and happened to find my number on my door. (I put it there in case the construction workers needed me.) God was with us and protecting us. That fire started from embers that were covered over with ashes and other debris. The wind caused the ashes to blow away, uncovered the hot embers and ignite the new trash the workers placed there that day. If that had happened the previous night which was possible or later Friday night or even if the fire had burned another 30 minutes, our house would have been gone. And what about us if it had happened at night while we were sleeping? God is good and protected us. As we live in a few rooms on top of each other during this time and my patience grows thin, He reminded me of what is really important. Not our worldly things, but our loved ones. Yes, we could have lost our possessions, but worse, we could have lost each other. I thank God that man was a good Samaritan. I thank God I put my number on my door. I thank God that the event happened when we were all awake.

* Reminder: everyone is invited and encouraged to share a similar story about how God has been working in their lives recently. Email them to Pastor and they will be included in the newsletter in the months ahead.

GRACE 2021 Service Schedule					
PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A REPLACEMENT SHOULD YOU BE UNABLE TO SERVE					
DATE	USHER	ACOLYTE	GREETER	Counters	Altar Guild
Jan. 31, Feb. 7	Dale Rider	Sydney W.	Sue Walker	Fred F. & Lisa L.	Carolyn Husted
Feb. 14, 21	Dale Rider	Sydney W.	Lisa Lalonde	Fred F. & Andy K.	Colleen Karp
Feb. 28, March 7	Paul Castle	Sydney W.	Lisa Lalonde	Fred F. & Lisa L.	Karen Huston