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JANUARY 2021

# Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## From the Pastor's Desk . . .

January begins a New Year with new resolutions and new beginnings. So let's try something NEW at Grace this year...! The Gospel of Mark starts with the words, "*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*" **GOSPEL** means "Good News" – specifically the good news about what Jesus Christ has done and continues to do.

My hunch is that your life is bombarded with plenty of "bad news" and "boring news." All you have to do is turn on the TV to find some – and many people have way too much time inside at home these days to be doing just that. So this New Year let me propose we start to do something different – look around for the Good News.

Now I'm not just talking about the power of positive thinking ("*always look on the bright side of your life!*") – although there is value in that. Instead, I'm talking about looking for how **GOD** is at work doing **GOOD THINGS** (or maybe we should say "*God things*") all around us.

To get more specific: starting this year I'd like to start gathering and sharing stories about people (like you) during the pandemic – ways that God has taught you something or done something great for you or someone you love. It can be a few sentences – or a few pages. You can write it down on paper, email it to me, or even record it on a video – (since now I know some of you actually know how to take and send videos – thanks to the nice one we put together for Christmas Eve). My hope and plan is to include one each month in the newsletter. It can be anonymous if you like. It can be humorous. It can just be the straight-forward truth.

But especially in these dark, cold months of winter what a wonderful thing it would be for us to **encourage** one another with stories about how God has been Gospeling all around us. And

in a way, it will be like continuing the Gospel of Mark with the “*continuation of the Good News of what Jesus Christ is doing here among us...*”

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

**December Official Pastoral Acts:**

- 17 private communions
- 5 circuit visitor activities
- 1 leadership meeting

<b>Upcoming Sermon Texts</b>	
Jan. 10	Mark 1:1-15
Jan. 17	Mark 2:23-3:6
Jan. 24	Mark 4:21-34
Jan. 31	Mark 8:1-10
Feb. 7	Mark 8:11-26

## 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. This is designed especially for those in the high-risk group or those unable to attend on Sundays. It would be appreciated if people would 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 on this, please contact Pastor Josh.

## Evangelism News

The Christmas coffee mugs have been a big hit so far. They are printed with the message “*Good Tidings of Comfort and Joy.*” We received 72 of them (thanks to funds from a Thrivent Action Team) – and we still have plenty left over. Extras are available on the table in the narthex. These are also meant to be given to visitors.

– Bob Scherry & Sue Walker –

PS If you would like an end of the year **financial/offering report** from Grace, please contact Sue. Her email address is [suze204@hotmail.com](mailto:suze204@hotmail.com).

# President's Message

“Happy and Healthy New Year” to one and all!

The November 22, 2020 Voters' Assembly went well. It lasted less than 1 hour! Please check the bulletin board periodically to see the posted minutes to see a recap of the aforementioned meeting.

For the foreseeable future and with the lack of Sunday service counting volunteers, Mr. Karp, Ms. Abicht, Ms. Lalonde, and I have decided to count church collections at a maximum of twice monthly. This should insure we'll have proper coverage, especially while the coronavirus is still a threat.

Speaking of Sunday collections, please remember to take your church envelopes for 2021. Currently they're on the table in the narthex. Unlike the Catholic Church, we won't mail the giving envelopes to you! When your time permits, please visit Grace Lutheran Church—those of you comfortable enough to do so. Masks and social distancing are still mandatory. Be safe.

In less than 2 months on February 21, 2021, we will have our 1<sup>st</sup> Voters' Assembly for 2021 after Sunday's service. That too should last less than 1 hour. Mark your calendars!

Fred C. Feddeck

Quote of the Month:

“The short memories of American voters are what keep politicians in office.”  
Will Rogers

## Buildings & Grounds Update

- The Church **roof** has been repaired for the umpteenth time, by Kevin Carr roofing.
- Several large **arborvitaes** near the portico have been straitened from the recent heavy snow storm. Thanks to Bert's Pretty Work Tree Svc.

- Dale Rider -

### January Birthdays

Ron Mertz	1/8
Bonnie Abicht	1/19

### January Anniversaries

Chris & Rachael Koch	1/22
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\* 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, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.
- **Private Communion Services:** Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30 pm and 7:00-8:00 pm.
- **Council Meeting:** Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.
- **February Newsletter Articles Due:** Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Altar Guild Items

Thank you to all who provided poinsettias to grace the chancel area this year:

**Anita Saathoff, Carolyn Husted, John & Kathy Knipper, and Glenn & Robin Turnbull.**

The **flower chart** has been updated for 2021. It, along with **sign-up** sheets to purchase the monthly Bulletins and Oil, has been placed on the hallway bulletin board. You can sign up there or by contacting me at [rturnbull@gmail.com](mailto:rturnbull@gmail.com).

Thank you to all who helped to take down and put away the Christmas decorations!

~ Robin ~

## Socks for Flocks

This month Grace continues the Socks for Flocks program. It started in November and runs until February 7<sup>th</sup>. There is a big "Socks for Flocks" box in the narthex in which can be given socks, hats, coats, etc. for the less fortunate in the Cleveland area. They will be given to and distributed by the Redeemer Crises Center in Cleveland. If you have any questions contact Pastor.

## GRACE 2021 Service Schedule

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

DATE	USHER	ACOLYTE	GREETER	Counters	Altar Guild
<b>Jan. 3, 10</b>	Dale Rider	Sydney W.	Bonnie Abicht	Bonnie A. & Lisa L.	Kathy Knipper
<b>Jan. 17, 24</b>	Dale Rider	Sydney W.	Lisa Lalonde	Fred F. & Andy K.	Karen Huston
<b>Jan. 31, Feb. 7</b>	Paul Castle	Sydney W.	Sue Walker	Fred F. & Lisa L.	Carolyn Husted