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MARCH 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](http://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.”*

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## From the Pastor’s Desk . . .

This month marks the **anniversary** – though I don’t suspect many of you will be celebrating with cake or champagne! It was one year ago on March 15<sup>th</sup> that we had our last “normal” worship service here at Grace. I’m sure you’ll remember all too well that it was March of last year when all this pandemic stuff hit and our lives (individually and collectively) were altered in so many ways. Many of those changes remain.

As we mark the anniversary of all this, a bit of good news is the realization that our current way of life is not permanent. Our “new normal” will not remain that way for much longer. The end of all this “nonsense” will come – though certainly not as quickly as we would like. That means that sometime soon (hopefully yet this year..??) we will all be able to worship God in His holy house, singing together without masks and then enjoying an unrushed time of food and fellowship afterwards – like a community of believers should. That will be a great day.

In the meantime, we continue to offers opportunities for you to draw near to Christ and be fed by Him – whether that be in-person worship, recorded worship videos on-line, mailed sermons to shut-ins, or private communion in the sanctuary. But let me highlight one thing. If there is a silver-lining over this past year, hopefully it’s been an improvement of your daily devotional life (individually or as a family) through the **daily family devotions**. I continue to write and email those out every day. I find them beneficial to me – as I’m forced to wrestle with God

and His Word and to come to grips with the bigness of the stuff He promises, expects of me, and then promises to work within me. Hopefully they have been of spiritual value and encouragement to you also. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer stresses in his *“Life Together”* (to say nothing of the urging and encouragement of Psalms and Proverbs), daily meditation on Christ and His Word can prove so fruitful and beneficial in the life of a Christian – in good times and bad, normal and pandemically uncomfortable.

So let me, also, encourage you to continue daily to be meditating on God’s Word.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

**PS** I’m 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.

**February Official Pastoral Acts:**

- 6 private communions
- 4 leadership meetings
- 1 circuit visitor activity
- 1 funeral (*Bev Dorrance*)

<b>Upcoming Sermon Texts</b>	
Feb. 28	Mark 9:30-37
March 7	Mark 10:32-45
March 14	Mark 11:12-26
March 21	Mark 15:21-32
March 28	Mark 11:1-11
April 1	Mark 14:12-25

## 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.

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>).

## President's Message

Here we are in the month of March and presumedly most adult members of Grace Lutheran Church have received both coronavirus vaccine shots. What a country!

As most of you know, the late Mr. Wayne Hammond left our church a handsome amount of money with no strings attached. Grace Lutheran Church—Oberlin is, for the time being, financially able to help other worthy Lutheran causes.

**I have a challenge for you:** after reading the above, suggest a worthy-cause donation we the church council can discuss at our upcoming council meeting tentatively scheduled for April 12, 2021 and continue deliberating at our scheduled May 10, 2021 meeting to then present our recommendation(s) at the Voters' Assembly May 16<sup>th</sup>. All your e-mails on the subject should be sent to Pastor Joshua by March 31<sup>st</sup> for his inclusion on the April agenda.

Fred C. Feddeck

Quote of the month:

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

---Winston Churchill

## Buildings & Grounds Update

- If you haven't already done so, next time you're at church be sure to stop by the Fellowship Hall and check out the **new windows**. They let a lot of light in and look a whole lot better.
- The **snowthrower** has been repaired and serviced.
- **Safe Harbor** to do annual security inspection on 3/08/21.
- Parsonage ceiling to be examined by a professional tape and mud expert to find the cause of why a crack keeps getting larger and spider-like.

- Dale Rider -

## Reminders

- If you would like an end of the year **financial/offering report** from Grace, please contact Sue Walker. Her email address is [suze204@hotmail.com](mailto:suze204@hotmail.com).
- **Daylight Savings Time** begins on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

## March Birthdays

Jan Mertz	3/9
Myles Bremke	3/13
Caleb Moldenhauer	3/16
Myron Bremke	3/20
Brian Jones	3/25
David Jones	3/25
Reilly Jones	3/25

## March Anniversaries

Dave & Jen Jones 3/29

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

## Quarterly Voters' Meeting Recap

A Quarterly Voters' Assembly was held Sunday, February 14, 2021 after the worship service. There were 13 members present.

Pastor highlighted that Lent started on the 17th and we held services on Ash Wednesday. There will be services on Maundy Thursday (4/1) and Good Friday (4/2). We will not be having our usual Wednesday services in between.

President Feddeck thanked Bob Scherry and Sue Walker for their hard work in Evangelism and providing Christmas mugs for the congregation.

Discussion was had regarding plumbing, pipe repairs and flooring needed in the Parsonage.

Treasurer Andy Karp, asked if anyone would be interested in making direct deposits for their Church contributions. Tom Monroe was acting Treasurer for the month of February so as to have someone in the ready in case of an emergency with Andy Karp. We had an audit review for 2020. The copy is on the bulletin board.

There is a full copy of the February 2021 Voters' Assembly minutes posted on the hallway bulletin board for everyone to read.

The next Quarterly Voters' Assembly is scheduled for May 16, 2021 after worship. Please put this in your calendar. We appreciate your input and votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Anne Christner, Recording Secretary

## Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Elder's Meeting:** Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 pm.
- **Private Communion Services:** Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> from 1:00-2:30 pm and 7:00-8:00 pm.
- **April Newsletter Articles Due:** Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>
- **Maundy Thursday worship service:** Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm.
- **Good Friday Tennebrae worship service:** Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm.

# GRACE 2021 Service Schedule

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

DATE	USHER	ACOLYTE	GREETER	Counters	Altar Guild
<b>Feb. 28, March 7</b>	Paul Castle	Sydney W.	Lisa Lalonde	Fred F. & Lisa L.	Robin Turnbull
<b>Mar. 14, 21</b>	Paul Castle	Sydney W.	Lee Anne Christner	Fred F. & Andy K.	Kathy Knipper
<b>Mar. 28, Apr. 1, 2, 4</b>	Dale Rider	Sydney W.	Lisa Lalonde	Fred F. & Lisa L.	Robin Turnbull

## Note from the Parish Nurse

One more note about vaccines. By now, you may be tired of hearing about it and hopefully if you wanted to receive it, you may have had an opportunity to do so!

It is recommended that if you want the vaccine, take the first one available to you rather than try to wait for a specific manufacturer's product. Each one has been carefully reviewed for safety and efficacy. While each one has a few aspects that are specific to it, overall they all serve to protect from severe disease, hospitalization, and death from the virus.

It is important to remember that regardless of which vaccine you receive, it is still recommended to continue with all the precautions in place prior to implementation of the vaccine. While they all reduce severe disease, hospitalization, and death from the virus, none of them are 100% at preventing disease and there is **NOT** current evidence that once you are vaccinated you can no longer spread the disease to others. In other words, it may still be possible for you to contract the virus, possibly with no symptoms, and spread it to others.

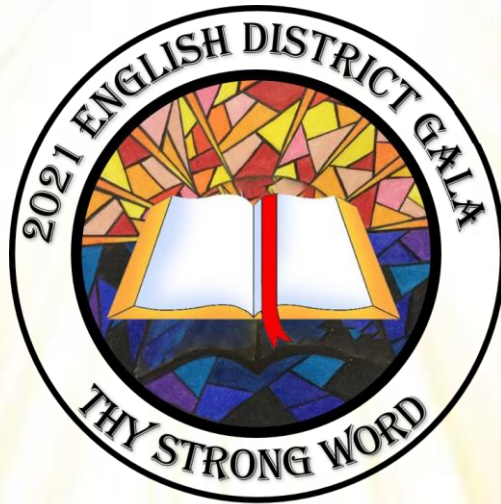
So continue using masks, physical distance, avoid large groups, wash hands frequently. Be smart and stay healthy. Hopefully soon we will be able to get back to more normal activities!

Jan Koepp

## Altar Guild Items

I am hoping to offer to purchase Easter Lilies this year. I will update the information in the weekly announcements.

~ Robin ~



# Virtual Gala

*for the benefit of the*

## English District Endowment Fund

In the beginning, God spoke and it was so. **THY STRONG WORD.**

Today ministry and mission work is done with our hands and feet, our actions and our words. **THY STRONG WORD.**

God also inspires us to give of our treasures. **THY STRONG WORD.**

Our English District has an Endowment Fund that assists congregations and pastors with ministry and mission work. The 2021 English District Virtual Gala is a time for our district to gather online and recognize the work of our ministries and missions that received assistance from our Endowment Fund. It is also an opportunity for all members and congregations to donate to this important fund so it may continue supporting our district's work in ministry and mission.

Join the English District on June 13, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time for the Virtual Gala—**THY STRONG WORD.** There will be inspiring speakers, award presentations, opportunities to donate, an online auction, a celebration of our missions, and beautiful music.

**[Register here](#)**

OR

Visit our English District website – [www.englishdistrict.org](http://www.englishdistrict.org).