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NOVEMBER 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 . . .

I don’t know about you, but it seems like **Thanksgiving** has snuck up on me this year. Maybe it was that warm weather that seems to stretch so long into September. Maybe it was the kids’ excitement about Halloween and all the other Autumn activities. Whatever it was, it came quick...

And it begs the question: *do we really have anything to be thankful for this year???* The pandemic lingers on. Things haven’t returned to “normal.” A booster vaccine is nice – but how well will it work, and how long until you need the next one? There seems to be more questions than answers. The politics involved in everything is a mess. Some people seem too busy to stop and give thanks. Others of us have had a year tinged with sadness. *Can we sing joyfully while still a little sorrowful about the death of a loved one?* The call to thanksgiving can sneak up on us for a variety of reasons...

And yet it’s instructive to remember that the call to give thanks didn’t originate from some Presidential edict or community tradition. For those of us in Christ – with a faith in Christ that animates our beings – the call comes from God, the one *“from whom all blessings flow”* (LSB hymn # 805). **“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”** it says simply in 1 Thessalonians 5:18. That sounds pretty cut and dry and straightforward. Chew on that one for a minute...

On **Thanksgiving Eve** (Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm) God’s people will gather at Grace to praise and thank Him – not because our lives are perfect or painless, but because God is good and He has indeed blessed us with many good things. And we are blessed in recounting that. Join us.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

PS I'd still love to get out of the office and **visit** with you in-person. So, when you are comfortable and ready to have me over for a visit, please contact me and I'll be happy to come over.

**October Official Pastoral Acts:**

- 6 circuit visitor activities
- 2 shut-in visits
- 2 private communions
- 1 pastoral care visit
- 1 leadership meeting

<b>Upcoming Sermon Texts</b>	
Nov. 7	Hebrews 11:1-16
Nov. 14	Hebrews 12:1-17
Nov. 21	Hebrews 12:18-29
Nov. 28	

## Worship Information

Our church pandemic protocols put into place last month will continue this month.

Pastor offers **Private Communion** at church the first Wednesday of the month from 1:00-2:30 pm and 7:00-8:00 pm OR by private appointment. People can contact Pastor ahead of time to "reserve" a time, but "drop-ins" are also welcome. Contact Pastor if you'd prefer a home visit with private communion.

We are in need of more volunteers to be **lay readers, ushers, and greeters**. If you might be willing to serve on Sunday morning in one of these ways, please contact Pastor.

If you or someone you know would like to receive a mailed hard copy of each Sunday's sermon, please contact Pastor Josh to be added to that mailing list.

## Advent

Like last year Grace is planning on purchasing 3 or 4 kinds of family Advent devotionals for everyone in the congregation. Feel free to pick yours up this month on the white table in the narthex. If you aren't able to do so by Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> (which is the start of Advent) we will try and get one to you one way or another. If you know of a friend or neighbor who might appreciate one also, please take an extra to give to them.

## President's Message

Here we are in November: getting ready for a Church Council meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> (Monday) with the 2022 operating budget in the forefront. Any input/requests for funds from Grace's congregation and council members have been forwarded to our treasurer, Mr. Karp. He's finalized the budget for Monday's approval by the council for presentation to the voters at our last Voters' Assembly of 2021 scheduled for Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> immediately after services---needing voters' approval to foreshadow 2022. Packets for the Voters' Assembly will be emailed to members of Grace who have their email address on file with Pastor Joshua no later than Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Anyone, who wishes, can see Pastor for a non-emailed packet. Please spend enough time reviewing the contents of the information provided to better understand the agenda items at the VA meeting. There will be plenty of time for questions. While all gatherings are important, this is the most important meeting of 2021.

My thanks to our current council members for allowing me to use the gavel I purchased specifically for a council meeting during the past 2 years. I'm thinking of having it bronzed and putting it on my bookcase along with sci-fi books I've accumulated over the years!

Fred C. Feddeck  
Church Council President

Quote of the Month: "Going to church on a regular basis brings relaxation to the mind and comfort to the soul." FCF

<u>November Birthdays</u>		<u>November Anniversaries</u>	
James Feddeck	11/10	Tom & Barb Hadaway	11/13
Cole Sklarek	11/13	Myron & Verna Bremke	11/15
Verna Bremke	11/17		
Daniel Bremke	11/20		
Sydney Wright	11/20		
Harriett Thomas	11/21		
Fred Feddeck	11/22		

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

## Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Private Communion Service:** Wed., November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00-2:30 and 7:00-8:00 pm.
- **Council Meeting:** Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **Elder's Meeting:** Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **Voters' Meeting Packets Distributed:** Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **November Quarterly Voters' Meeting:** Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:20 am.
- **Thanksgiving Eve Service:** Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **Advent Begins:** Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>
- **December Newsletter Articles Due:** Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>
- **Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service:** Friday, December 24<sup>th</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	Lay Reader
<b>Nov. 7th, 14th</b>	Tom Monroe	Carter Jones	Lisa Lalonde	Fred F. & Glen F.	Carolyn Husted	Jon Storr
<b>Nov. 21st, 28th</b>	Dale Rider	David Jones	Karen Fridenstine	Bonnie A. & Lisa L.	Colleen Karp	Paul Castle

We are in need of a...

***GOOD NEWS Stories About What GOD Has Been Doing Among Us***

...for next month's newsletter. Consider how God has been at work around you lately, write up a quick email describing it, and send it to Pastor.

## Children's Ministry

We would like to start a second Sunday School class for kids roughly 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. We need a volunteer to start teaching this small group (of 1 to 3 kids) Sunday School twice a month. Lesson plans and workbook will be provided. Please contact Pastor Josh if you might be interested.

## District News

The English District's **Fall Regional Pastor's Conference** was held October 18-20 in Toledo, Ohio. The main topic was **Bo Giertz**, a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Lutheran pastor and writer from Sweden. The conference presenter termed it best when he called Giertz "*the Swedish version of C. S. Lewis.*" Giertz is probably most famous for writing a novel called "The Hammer of God" – which describes and demonstrates God's Law & Gospel in the everyday life of God's people. I have a copy in my office and would be happy to lend it to anyone.

There was a lecture on **pastoral leadership** and a Bible study on the **wrath of God**. Beyond that, there was time to connect with fellow pastors and hear about what's going on in the English District and different opportunities and programs they have available to us – such as the "**Joining in God's Mission**" module of Revitality. On the Fellowship Hall bulletin board I've posted a colored copy of the district Financial Report – along with a flyer from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF).

There's lots more I could say, but let me just summarize it by telling you we are part of a GREAT district of the LCMS and we are blessed to be in a GREAT region of that district with many thoughtful, talented, and godly servants of God – including the District President (Jamison Hardy), Mission Executive & Assistant to the Bishop (Derek Mathers), and Regional Vice-President (Jeff Miskus), who are all top-notch guys.

~ Pastor Josh

## Socks for Flocks

Again, this year our congregation will be participating in the Socks for Flocks program. It starts in November 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through Super Bowl weekend. There will be a big box in the narthex in which we will be collecting socks, hats, coats, etc. for the less fortunate in the Cleveland area. They will be given and distributed by the **Redeemer Crises Center in Cleveland**. If you have any questions contact Pastor Josh

## Nominating Committee Update

The two Church Council positions up for election at the November Quarterly Voters' Meeting are **President** and **Evangelism Deacon**. So far **Sue Walker** has been nominated for **Evangelism Deacon** and she has consented to serve if elected. **James Feddeck** has been nominated as **Council President** and he is prayerfully considering whether to consent.

The deadline for further nominations is Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. The official slate will be announced in the November Voters' Meeting packet on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to nominate someone, please contact one of the members of this year's Nominating Committee: **Pastor Josh, Lee Anne Christner, Paul Castle, Bonnie Abicht, and Robin Turnbull.**

## Buildings & Grounds Update

1. New wider doors and ramp have been installed at the Church storage section of the parsonage garage. Also, a new wall was constructed to over the former doorway between pastor's garage and church storage area. The reason for the work is to be able to store the church's riding-lawn mower safely inside and separate church tools and equipment from the parsonage ones.
2. Notified Coates Brothers to nail damage in ceiling of Narthex.
3. Checked and reset Church building thermostats.
4. Checked Narthex lighting, Narthex seems dark and not welcoming.
5. New air conditioner for Sanctuary has arrived at contractor's office, may delay installation until spring.
6. Coates Brothers repaired ceiling in Narthex, no charge.
7. Pastor cleaned and rearranged tools/equipment in shed area.
8. Sprayed weed killer around outside of church. Waiting for landscaping company to move Magnolia.
9. Paul Castle and I replaced light bulbs in ceiling light in Sanctuary. Paul will replace all bulbs in lights at outside walls on either side of Sanctuary.
10. Receiving final quotes for flooring in parsonage, will have them for November Council Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tom Monroe