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FEBRUARY 2022

# 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 . . .

I know the battle – because I’m part of it all the time. Some mornings it goes like this:

*“Time to go to school.” “I don’t want to go to school!” “You have to go to school.” “I don’t want to go to school, I want to stay home and play with all my toys!” “You have to go to school to learn things.” “I don’t want to learn things – I just want to stay and watch TV!”* And from there it just drags on, as a parent starts trying to explain the value of a higher education – and a kid finds endless excuses to not value it. I know the battle. I’ve been on both sides.

But speaking to all the **adults** listening – you all can rationally and logically understand the basic value of learning and education. And as **Christian adults** – you have hopefully learned along the way the amazing value and goodness of learning God’s Word. It has SO much wisdom and insight to share... just remember back to those daily devotions on Proverbs a couple of years ago. Consider all the wisdom contained in the sayings and images shared by Jesus. It’s why I’m so excited this month to again be teaching Confirmation class every week AND that we’ve restarted Adult Bible Class. It’s a chance to learn, grow, and be stretched. Martin Luther puts it in bold terms:

*“You should diligently learn the Word of God and by no means imagine that you know it. Let him who is able to read take a psalm in the morning, or some other chapter of Scripture, and study it for a while. When I get up in the morning, I pray and recite the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord’s Prayer with the children, adding any one of the psalms. I do this only in order to keep myself well acquainted with these matters, and I do not want to let the mildew of the notion grow that I know them well enough. The devil is a greater rascal than you think he is. You do as yet not know what sort of fellow he is and what sort of rogue you are. His definite design is to get you tired of the Word and in this way draw you away from it.” (What Luther Says, p. 79)*

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

**January Official Pastoral Acts:**

- 2 shut-in visits
- 1 private communion
- 2 evangelism contacts
- 8 leadership meetings
- 2 circuit visitor activities

**Upcoming Sermon Texts**

Feb. 6	Luke 13:1-9
Feb. 13	Luke 14:12-24
Feb. 20	Luke 14:25-35
Feb. 27	Luke 9:28-36

## Worship Information

Pastor offers **Private Communion** at church the first Wednesday of the month from 1:00-2:30 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.

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.

The updated **Church Covid Policy** (laid out in last month’s newsletter) is still in place at this time.

## Adult Bible Class

Pastor’s Sunday morning Adult Bible Class at 9:00 am the first two Sunday of every month – beginning THIS MONTH. The class will meet in the Fellowship Hall, where there is plenty of room for social distancing. The first class will cover **Yahweh** as God’s name – the second will look at **free will**. The following classes will cover various Bible topics deemed relevant or specific questions people have – so bring any if you have any. Contact Pastor Josh for further info.

## Socks for Flocks

We are collecting socks, gloves, hats, coats, etc. for the less fortunate in the Cleveland area through the **Redeemer Crisis Center**. Items can be placed in the large white cardboard box in the narthex. The deadline is Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

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.

If you would like an end of the year **church offering report**, please contact Sue Walker. You can call, text or email. 440-822-9323 or [suze204@hotmail.com](mailto:suze204@hotmail.com).

<u>February Birthdays</u>		<u>February Anniversaries</u>	
Brandon Swanzer	2/3	Dave & Marcia Metzger	2/1
Diane Senyak	2/3	Terry & Judy Gornek	2/20
Eva Horning	2/4		
Jan Kristoff	2/4		
Carter Jones	2/10		
Scott Dorrance	2/12		
Myles Bremke	2/13		
Lee Anne Christner	2/15		
Kris Koepp	2/19		

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

## President's Message

GLC Members

Thank you Wayne Hammond. Wayne passed away October 2020 and left a financial gift to Grace Lutheran Church. GLC would be in an immediate money crunch if not for Wayne's benevolence. Last year 2021, we entered into deficit spending; meaning we are spending more than we are receiving. Wayne's gift pays the difference, making up any shortfalls in the budget.

This year we will be able to replace:

- One or two of the air conditioners in the sanctuary,
- New lighting in the sanctuary—completed.
- Install new flooring in part of the parsonage.
- Complete the landscaping around the church.

Managing the upkeep of the church building and property are ongoing.

**THIS IS NOT SUSTAINABLE.**

Certainly COVID has been a major factor in all this, members not attending and also not giving or tithing. I would encourage every member to at least give to the church even though COVID may have prevented you from attending. Money is always a difficult subject to talk about but, it is very important in the life and wellbeing of the church.

Keeping the faith,

Tom Monroe, Pres.

“Do yer givin’, while yer livin’, so you’ll be knowin’ where its goin’.” Author unknown

## Free Light Bulbs

Light bulbs free to a good home. When the light bulbs were replaced in the Sanctuary, about 2/3's of them were still good. We checked them all and threw out the defective bulbs. The good ones are on the table In the Fellowship Hall. Please help yourself to any or all the bulbs that are on the table.

## Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Adult Bible Class:** Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.
- **Confirmation Class:** Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, & 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm.
- **Council Meeting:** Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **Private Communion Service:** Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30 pm.
- **Elder's Meeting:** Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **February Voters' Meeting Packets Distributed:** Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.
- **Quarterly Voters' Meeting:** Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am.
- **February Newsletter Articles Due:** Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Ash Wednesday Worship Service:** Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm.

## GRACE 2022 Service Schedule

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

DATE	Usher	Acolyte	Greeter	Counters	Altar Guild	Lay Reader
<b>Feb. 6</b>	Bob Izold	Reilly Jones	Anita Saathoff	Bonnie A. & Lisa L.	Robin Turnbull	Dave Jones
<b>Feb. 14, 21</b>	Paul Castle	Carter Jones	Lisa Lalonde	Glen F. & Jan Koepp	Kathy Knipper	Anita Saathoff
<b>Feb. 27, March 6</b>	Tom Monroe	David Jones	Sue W.	Jan Koepp & Lisa L.	Karen Huston	David Jones