
APRIL 2022

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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440-775-3271

Pastor Josh Moldenhauer
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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.”*

From the Pastor’s Desk . . .

The highlight of April is **EASTER**. It’s really the highlight of the whole Church Year. It’s what all of Lent has been pointing toward – all the sacrifices and dedication of Jesus Christ, the great Prophet and Savior of God’s people. It’s a day we mark and remember not only as a historical event, but also because of the ongoing and future ramifications of it. We are **joyous Easter Christians** – even when we bury a loved one in a cemetery. Easter has a profound meaning for us.

One of the great gifts we’ve been given this year is an opportunity to celebrate Easter freely. The last couple of years have put something of a pandemic pall on our celebrations. But thanks be to God for what He’s given us this Easter. We can sing His praises (without masks), we can commune together (at His altar), and we can fellowship together afterward (with cookies). Easter will be a wonderful time to have our whole church family together.

And speaking of our church family... this month we’re hoping to finalize all the pictures and details about our **2022 Church Directory**. And we’d like everyone in our church family to be included. (See p. 5 for further details...) Starting in May we’re going to be offering the **Foundations of Faith** class as a means by which new people can be brought into our church family. If you might be interested or would like more information, please let me know.

On the final page of this month’s newsletter you’ll find a list of all the **Service Opportunities at Grace**. It’s the current list, although there are always new ideas and ministries to begin. The purpose is two-fold. First, it’s a way of highlighting the means by which so many members of this church family serve our Lord in often behind the scenes sort of ways. There are a variety of “little” but certainly important jobs. Secondly, this is a way of encouraging church family members to

consider ways in which they might be able to serve here. Many of these “little” jobs do not take much of a time commitment. There is flexibility on when some can be done. Some are as easy as sitting on a riding lawnmower or pressing “record” on a video camera. ALL of them are ways people can and do serve God in this place. All of them are appreciated.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

March Official Pastoral Acts:

- 3 shut-in visits
- 12 pastoral care visits
- 12 leadership meetings
- 1 evangelism contact
- 1 circuit visitor activity
- 2 funerals

(Micki Jones, Myron Bremke)

| Upcoming Sermon Texts | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| April 3 | 2 Kings 2:9-14 | Luke 18:31-34 |
| April 10 | Palm Sunday | Luke 19:28-40 |
| April 17 | Easter | Luke 24:1-12 |
| April 24 | | John 20:19-31 |
| May 1 | | Luke 7:1-10 |

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.

Coffee hour officially resumes this month at Grace and will be continued indefinitely. This is completely voluntarily and optional, and those who do not feel it is a safe option should feel absolutely no pressure to stay. But for those who would like to, it is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship together.

Adult Bible Class

Pastor’s Sunday morning Adult Bible Class meets at 9:00 am the first two Sunday of every month. The class will meet in the Fellowship Hall, where there is plenty of room for social distancing and more chairs. In **April** we will be covering the **book of James, the issue of Faith plus Works, and the question of whether we are saved by grace alone**. Everyone is welcome.

Children’s Church

We need **Children’s Church teachers** right away. You’d be teaching those 3 years old through 1st grade once a month. Lesson plans would be provided a week in advance. Materials and supplies are available at church. Please contact Pastor Josh or Tom Monroe if interested or if you have further questions.

A Message from the President

Dear GLC members,

Sometimes it's all about the numbers, in our case the numbers are attendance and giving. Our weekly average church attendance is down from 44 a week in 2016 to 29 a week in 2021. Certainly Covid-19 had a part in the drop in attendance. In the past 2 ½ years that Christine and I have attended church I can think of 4-5 families that have left our church or not attending. I'm sure there are more. We as a church family must turn these numbers around. The other part of the equation is giving, with the average attendance down, giving will also be down. So far this year our giving for the first 3 months averages approximately \$6262 per month. To meet our budget expenses excluding capital spending we need to be receiving \$8200 per month. So at the end of March we are already \$6000 in the red for 2022. We are making up the difference by drawing down Wayne Hammonds gift. I really don't know how to end this message except that we as a church family should try to talk to other members not attending and encourage them to give us a try again.

~ Tom Monroe

"A checkbook is a theological document, it will tell you who and what you worship." -- Billy Graham

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Matthew 18:20

Evangelism Updates

We have come up with a letter to mail to people who are buying real estate locally. In it, we invite them to join us on Sundays, or contact us with questions, or just talk. If you have any input on this project, please let me know. We also invite them to send any prayer needs to GracePraysForYou@gmail.com

I applied for **Thrivent Action Teams** funds and have ordered **tote bags** for us to give away to friends, family and others. They should be in soon. Please grab a couple and give to anyone who will use them.

Sue Walker

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 |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|------------|
| April 3rd | Bob Izold | Carter Jones | Lisa Lalonde | Jan Koepp & Lisa L. | Robin Turnbull | Jon Storr |
| April 10th, 17th | Paul Castle | David Jones | Sue W. | Jan Koepp & Lisa L. | Kathy Knipper | Dave Jones |
| Apr. 24, May 1 | Tom Monroe | Reilly Jones | Anita S. | Jan Koepp & Lisa L. | Karen Huston | Anita S. |

| <u>April Birthdays</u> | | <u>April Anniversaries</u> | |
|------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|
| Debbie Burt | 4/4 | Kert & Jan Limpert | 4/7 |
| Dale Swanzer | 4/14 | Ray & Beverly Hines | 4/16 |
| Britney Swanzer | 4/21 | Ron & Diane Senyak | 4/26 |
| Jan Koeppe | 4/25 | John & Jan Kristoff | 4/28 |
| John Knipper | 4/27 | | |
| Robin Turnbull | 4/28 | | |

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

Buildings & Grounds Update

- New **batteries** have been installed in church office door keypad.
- **Safe Harbor** has completed the yearly safety inspection, with no problems detected.
- The yearly **back-flow inspection** has been ordered by the city. Turnbull plumbing has been notified and will complete the test.
- I will speak to Tom Monroe concerning the emergency **door replacement** in the fellowship hall. The emergency door in the church is fine.
- The **gable vent** in the parsonage has been repaired and two new door bells have been installed as the old ones were not operable.

- Dale Rider -

Ukraine

As you know the war in Ukraine is raging on and millions are grieving or displaced from their homes. On Sunday, April 10th there will be a **free-will door offering** for Ukraine humanitarian relief through **Lutheran World Relief** and Corus International. Further details can be found by clicking on this link:

<https://lwr.org/story-hub/corus-international-responds-humanitarian-crisis-ukraine-0>

Details are also available on the church bulletin boards.

Memorial Report

During the first quarter of 2022 (January through March), the following Memorial Gifts were received at Grace:

- **Miriam Moldenhauer-Majewski** made a contribution in memory of **Rev. Al Moldenhauer** (Pastor Josh's grandfather)
- **Norm & Ginny Mazurowski, Stephen Mazurowski, Rebecca & Farrell Kabena, and Dave & Jen Jones' hallway colleagues at Keystone High School** made contributions totaling \$ 480 in memory of **Micki Jones**.
- **Jean Wimer** made a contribution in memory of **Myron Bremke**.

Altar Guild News

Easter Lilies:

If you would like to purchase a lily or another spring blooming plant to help decorate the chancel area for Easter Sunday, please drop it off at church Thursday or Friday during Holy Week. Leave your plant on the island in the kitchen. Please have your name on the pot cover so you can take it home after worship on Easter. Thank you!

~ Robin Turnbull

Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Adult Bible Class:** Sunday, April 3rd & 10th at 9:00 am.
- **Church Directory Pictures:** Sunday, April 3rd & 10th at 11:00 am.
- **Coffee Hour Resumes:** Sunday, April 3rd at 11:00 am.
- **Confirmation Class:** Monday, April 4th & 11th at 3:30 pm.
- **Private Communion Service:** Wednesday, April 6th from 1:00-2:30 pm.
- **Midweek Lent Services:** Wednesday, April 6th at 4:00 pm.
- **Elder's Meeting:** Thursday, April 7th at 7:00 pm.
- **Council Meeting:** Monday, April 11th at 7:00 pm.
- **Maundy Thursday Service:** Thursday, April 14th at 7:00 pm.
- **Good Friday Tenebrae Service:** Friday, April 15th at 7:00 pm.
- **May Newsletter Articles Due:** Tuesday, April 26th

2022 Church Directory

Pictures are being assembled for a 2022 Church Directory. On Sunday, **April 3rd** and **10th** Jon Storr will be taking family pictures after worship. It won't take long – just a smile and a few clicks – and you can be on your way. We'd like to have as many pictures as possible.

If you are unable to make it to church on those dates, please email our website coordinator and Church Directory assembler **Kendis Bender** (dbender6@gmail.com) a good family picture of your family, for us to include in the new directory.

Also, throughout the month of April a rough draft copy of all the contact information for the directory will be placed on a table in the narthex. Please double-check that your information is correct and then put your initials by it so we know you've looked it over.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Service Opportunities at Grace

* updated on 3/1/22

| <u>Area</u> | <u>Job</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Contact Person</u> | <u>Email Address</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| WORSHIP: | Acolyte | light candles before worship and extinguish after | Pastor Josh | graceoberlinpastor@gmail.com |
| | Altar Guild | prepare front of sanctuary for worship (especially Communion), clean up after | Robin Turnbull | rturnbull@gmail.com |
| | Counter | count and record weekly offerings after worship; make deposit | Bonnie Abicht | abicht54@aol.com |
| | Greeter | welcome people as they enter church; answer any questions or concerns | Pastor Josh | graceoberlinpastor@gmail.com |
| | Lay Reader | read the OT Reading, Gradual, and Epistle Reading in worship | Pastor Josh | graceoberlinpastor@gmail.com |
| | Usher | direct people during Communion; be ready to help if needed during worship | Pastor Josh | graceoberlinpastor@gmail.com |
| | Video Recording | use church video camera in back of church to record worship services | Paul Castle | CathyCastle10@gmail.com |
| BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: | Church Sign | periodically change the marquee on the front church sign | Pastor Josh | graceoberlinpastor@gmail.com |
| | Decorating | help decorate the inside of the church for Advent/Christmas; clean-up after | Robin Turnbull | rturnbull@gmail.com |
| | Edging | edge the church sidewalks once or twice a year | Dale Rider | bidgg@c22@gmail.com |
| | General Repair | help fix any repairs that may be needed at church or parsonage | Dale Rider | bidgg@c22@gmail.com |
| | Landscaping | plant, mulch, and weed church flowerbeds | Dale Rider | bidgg@c22@gmail.com |
| | Lawn Mower | mow and weedwack church lawn | Dale Rider | bidgg@c22@gmail.com |
| | Painting | scrape, prime, and paint outside trim of church windows | Dale Rider | bidgg@c22@gmail.com |
| | Snow Removal | shovel sidewalks, church entrances, and parking lot when needed | Dale Rider | bidgg@c22@gmail.com |
| SECRETARIAL: | Bulletins | fold worship bulletins; print and staple monthly newsletters | Pastor Josh | graceoberlinpastor@gmail.com |
| | Financial Secretary | Record weekly church offerings; provide an end of year statement | Sue Walker | EVANGLC22@gmail.com |
| | Newsletter | assemble, edit, proofread, print, and email out newsletter every month | Pastor Josh | graceoberlinpastor@gmail.com |
| ADMINISTRATION: | Church Council | Pres., Vice-Pres., Sec., Treas., Evangelism, or Buildings & Grounds Deacon | Tom Monroe | president@c22@gmail.com |
| SPIRITUAL CARE: | Elder | Care for the spiritual needs of others in the congregation | Pastor Josh | graceoberlinpastor@gmail.com |
| | Prayer Chain | Join in privately praying for those in need via an email or phone chain | Jan Koopp | OB1Jan@aol.com |
| | Teacher | teach Children's Church to 3 year-olds to 1st graders during worship | Jen Moldenhauer | mirmsmoldy3@aol.com |
| OUTREACH: | Driver | take the canned goods from the narthex to the OCS Center | Pastor Josh | graceoberlinpastor@gmail.com |
| | Rummage Sale | help LWL set up for, organize, and clean up after annual Rummage Sale | Lee Anne Christner | ladiesaidpres4grace@gmail.com |
| | Share Candy | pass out candy to trick-or-treaters at church on Halloween | Sue Walker | EVANGLC22@gmail.com |
| FELLOWSHIP: | Photographer | take photos of the church and church events for website and church directory | Pastor Josh | graceoberlinpastor@gmail.com |
| | Women's Tea | join the LWL ladies for lunch together at a local restaurant | Lee Anne Christner | secretary4grace@gmail.com |