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JANUARY 2023

# 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 . . .

*“It’s a new year and time for a new you!”* That was the message on the TV commercial, reminding everyone (including myself) that we had not been as healthy as we could have been the past weeks – with the amount we ate (and drank) and the amount we (didn’t) exercise. On the screen there was someone exercising on some workout equipment – sweating and smiling happily. The implication, of course, was that in order to become this “new you” you are going to make some changes and put in some hard work. Improvements rarely happen on their own.

So how about YOU? Do you have any **New Year’s Resolutions** this month? Any specific changes or goals you have in mind for the coming year?

Around here at Grace we’ve begun exploring something NEW: becoming a **dual parish** with Bethany Lutheran Church in Wellington. Pursuing this will involve a new mindset, new ways of doing things, new opportunities, and new challenges. You’ll be hearing more about all those in the months to come, if God leads this NEW thing to become a reality.

For now, this NEW thing will require some change: starting on February 5<sup>th</sup> Grace’s Sunday morning worship services will begin at **10:30 am**, instead of 10:00 am. This will allow me the opportunity to stay and pastor the people of Bethany a while longer after their 8:30 am worship service AND get to Grace comfortably before the start of worship – without having to immediately rush out the door of one service to fly to the next. Grace’s Sunday worship has been at 10 for a long time. *Will moving it to 10:30 am be a BIG change for people? Something minor?* I don’t exactly know. But I do understand that sometimes changes need to be made in order for things to get better (or healthier). The TV commercials are at least right about that...

In Christ,  
Pastor Josh

PS Later this month you should be receiving (via email, or a hard copy if you don't do email) a 2-question short and easy survey with ideas and suggestions for Adult Bible Class and midweek worship options. When you see it, please take 2 minutes to fill out this 2-question **survey** on behalf of Grace. Thanks!!

**December Official Pastoral Acts:**

- 3 pastoral care visits
- 3 leadership meetings

Upcoming Sermon Texts	
January 8	Matthew 3:13-17
January 15	John 1:29-42
January 22	Matthew 4:12-25
January 29	Matthew 5:1-12
February 5	Matthew 5:13-20

## Worship Information

- **Private Communion** is offered at church the first Wednesday of the month from 2:30-4:00 pm OR by private appointment. Contact Pastor if you'd prefer a home visit with private communion.
- Copies of the **Sunday sermons** are emailed out to everyone and a hard copy mailed out to several people without computer access. If you'd like to start receiving hard copies by mail OR if you'd no longer like to be receiving the weekly emails, please contact Pastor.
- **Coffee Hour** after worship has been scaled down in size and scope – which means less pressure and time needed for hosting. The **Ladies Aid** will post an updated sign-up sheet for people willing to host in the upcoming weeks. Non-perishable refreshments have also been purchased to be used as needed. Talk to Lee Anne Christner for further details.
- A special thanks to John & Kathy Knipper, Pastor & Jen Moldenhauer, Gary & Anita Saathoff, and Robin & Glenn Turnbull for purchasing the **poinsettias** that have graced our Grace altar this past Christmas season.
- On Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> the 2023 Church Council will be installed during the worship service. Pictures will be taken afterwards for our new 2023 Church Directory
- Looking ahead, **Lent** begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## GRACE 2023 Service Schedule

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

DATE	Usher	Acolyte	Counters	Altar Guild	Lay Reader	Communion Assistant
<b>Jan. 1st, 8th</b>	Dale Rider	Carter Jones	Dave M. & Fred F.	Robin Turnbull	Jon Storr	Greg Christner
<b>Jan. 15th, 22nd</b>	Tom Monroe	David Jones	Bonnie & Lisa	Kathy Knipper	Fred Feddeck	Paul Castle
<b>Jan. 29, Feb. 5</b>	Dale Rider	Reilly Jones	Jan Koepp & Dale R.	Karen Huston	Dave Jones	Dave Jones

<u>January Birthdays</u>		<u>January Anniversaries</u>	
Ron Mertz	1/8	Chris & Rachael Koch	1/22
Bonnie Abicht	1/19		

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

## Adult Bible Class

Pastor's Sunday morning Adult Bible Class will be meeting at 11:20 am on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month in order to continue studying some of the **Parables of Jesus**. NEXT month the time will need to change, due to the changing worship time. Be sure to fill out and return the upcoming **2-Question Survey** to offer your input on when it would work best to meet in the future.

## Financial Information

I will be putting together the end of the year **church offering reports** soon. If you would like to receive a report, please contact me, Sue Walker at 440-822-9323 (call or text) or suze204@hotmail.com.

## Buildings & Grounds Update

Happy, Healthy New Year's Folks. A **doorbell** has been installed in the narthex, for the main outside double doors leading into the narthex. It is set to silent, which means no bell chimes but it lights up when activated. This is intended for anyone who might arrive especially late to worship, after the doors have been locked.

~ Dale Rider

## English District News

On Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> Vicar **Jim Bretthauer** of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Medina will be ordained as a Pastor. Prince of Peace is a fellow member of the English District of the LCMS. Bretthauer, a former DCE, has entered the Specific Ministry Pastor path to become a pastor at that congregation, where he has spent months studying via online classes. We applaud his efforts and rejoice as God calls and forms another man to serve as PASTOR within His Church.

## NAMI News

The local chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is still hoping and planning to host a weekly **Family-to-Family Education Course** at Grace SOON. They are just awaiting for enough people to register and participate in the classes. Anyone is welcome to attend.

The free classes will be taught by a trained NAMI facilitator and will help family members learn more about how to be deal with a loved one who has a mental illness. For more information, or to register, call 440-240-8477 or email [office@nami-lc.org](mailto:office@nami-lc.org)

## 2023 Church Directory

Jon Storr has graciously agreed to take pictures of people at Grace on Sunday **January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>** after worship, in order to include them in our new **2023 Church Directory**. We are hoping to have even MORE family photos than last year! It only takes a couple of minutes, you're all dressed up anyway, and it will help everyone get to know each other a little more...

## Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Installation of Church Council:** Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.
- **Coffee Hour:** Every Sunday at 11:00 am.
- **Elder's Meeting:** Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **Private Communion Service:** Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30 pm.
- **Adult Bible Class:** Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:20 am
- **Council Meeting:** Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **2023 Church Directory Pictures Taken:** Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>
- **February Newsletter Articles Due:** Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **February Quarterly Voters' Meeting:** Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:40 am.

## Changing Lives Around the World with the Gospel

### *Liberia*

**Famata**, a 59-year-old widow and grandmother to six, comes from a non-Christian religious family. She said she didn't have a choice growing up and was told what religious she needed to follow. Recently, one of Famata's grandchildren picked up booklets from LHM-Liberia. Famata noticed her granddaughter reading something, and she asked what it was. It was an LHM-Liberia booklet about faith during life's adversity. For the next few days, the two of them read booklets and talked about the things they had learned. Famata said that all the questions she had about life and faith came back to her. She reached out to LHM-Liberia staff and shared the impact the booklets had made in her and her granddaughter's lives. LHM-Liberia staff set up a time to meet at their house and they prayed together. LHM-Liberia staff referred Famata to a local church where she can continue to learn more about Jesus.

**Nittaya** is 60 years old and works as the cook at a local school. She used to practice a non-Christian religion. When she heard some LHM-Thailand's radio programs, she began to listen regularly. She shared that the programs made her feel peaceful and increased her desire to learn more about Jesus. Nittaya contacted LHM-Thailand staff to enroll in their Bible Correspondence Courses. She started the lessons and is enjoying learning more about the Christian faith. Nittaya is encouraged by the Bible and continues to learn about Jesus.

*This is from the Lutheran Hour Ministries publication, "The Lutheran Layman", Fall 2022.*