
FEBRUARY 2023

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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440-775-3271

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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 . . .

“Change is coming!” This month will mark the first time in decades that this congregation will change its Sunday morning worship time – moving it from 10 am to **10:30 am**. But if you read the President’s Message this month... that’s not the only change coming. At our February 19th Voters’ Meeting we’ll be discussing whether to change that worship time to 9 am permanently or to leave it at 10:30 am but alternate it each month with 8:30 am services. Plus there will be discussions at that meeting about when (or if) to have various midweek worship services. Be sure to attend these because these are important decisions... and change is coming!

“Change can be frustrating!” I’d love to be able to write you all today and announce all the final decisions about worship times and Bible study times – but those will all need to be worked out in discussion with congregational leaders and voters, as we seek to work this all out together. I’d like to thank the 22 people who took part in the 2-Minute 2-Question survey last month. It provided some helpful data, though it certainly wasn’t conclusive. There are no quick or easy answers. It’s going to take a little time to figure it out – which can be frustrating for someone like me. Becoming part of a Dual Parish will also be difficult because it may force us to compromise, realizing we can’t always get what we want. And THAT can be frustrating...!

“Change can be productive!” The first Dual Parish Planning Meeting was held on Feb. 1st here at Grace. Rev. Paul Werner (the Ohio District Circuit Visitor) led a discussion about what the Bible says about Church & Ministry, the Pros and Cons of forming a Dual Parish, and Topics Regarding forming a Dual Parish. A lot was said on a lot of topics! But one moment that caused us all to pause and think was when he asked us: *How would cooperation between our congregations*

empower the mission of the church-at-large (AKA the Kingdom of God)?!!? Ideally change should improve things. In what ways could our forming a Dual Parish help both congregations to be MORE productive for God's Kingdom? That is something for us all to wrestle with in the months ahead...

“Change is under control!” Not ours, of course, but Christ's. We trust Him to lead and guide His Church and to do what's best for her and her proclamation of the Gospel. He is in control, and that helps the whole thing to be a lot less scary than it would be otherwise. That, of course, is also the nature of faith. The child-like security of walking our Father's way...

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

January Official Pastoral Acts:

- 5 pastoral care visits
- 9 leadership meetings
- 5 circuit visitor activities
- 2 private communions
- 3 premarital counselling sessions
- 2 family visitations

Upcoming Sermon Texts

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| February 5 | Matthew 5:13-20 |
| February 12 | Matthew 5:21-37 |
| February 19 | Matthew 17:1-9 |
| February 22 | Matthew 6:1-21 |
| February 26 | Matthew 4:1-11 |

Worship Information

- **Private Communion** is offered at church or by pastoral home visit whenever requested. Please contact Pastor to schedule.

- 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.

- **Lent** begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Pastor and the Elders will meet the first week of this month to work through all the survey results and determine the best course of action. For input on when or if Grace should host special midweek services (like Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday), please attend the Voters' Meeting on the 19th. We will definitely try and let everyone know what the plans are for Lent once they are finalized.

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.

A Message from the President

At the November 20, 2022 Grace Lutheran Church voters meeting, we voted on pursuing the idea of a dual parish with Bethany Lutheran Church in Wellington. The ad hoc committee from Grace are Tom Monroe, Paul Castle, LeAnne Christner and Myles Bremke.

Grace Oberlin and Bethany Wellington met for the first meeting on February 1 at Grace to work on the dual parish collaboration. It is anticipated this process will take at least four meetings over the next two to three months. Pastor Paul Werner of St Paul Lutheran Church in Amherst was the moderator and he presented the guidelines for a dual parish.

The items discussed:

1. This partnership will be 50/50.
2. On Sunday mornings--Bethany worship time at 8:30 am, Grace Lutheran at 10:30 am on the even months of the year. Grace Lutheran at 8:30 am, Bethany Lutheran at 10:30am on the odd months of the year.

OR a post meeting worship time suggestion:

Grace Lutheran at 9:00 am and Bethany Lutheran at 10:45 am or 11:00 am. no monthly switching back and forth.

3. Regular Voters' meetings-- Both Congregations Voter's meeting will be held after Sunday services.
4. Special Worship Services: - Christmas Eve worship services will be held at 6:00 pm at one congregation and 8:00 pm at the other congregation, alternating each year. In 2023 the 6:00 pm service will be at [fill in blank]
 - Good Friday worship services will be held at 6:00 pm at one congregation and 8:00 pm at the other congregation, alternating each year. In 2023 the 6 pm service will be at [fill in blank]
 - Maundy Thursday worship services will be...? [fill in the blank]
 - Ash Wednesday worship services will be...? [fill in the blank]
 - Midweek Advent and Lenten services will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church at 7:00 pm.
 - Thanksgiving Eve services will be held at Grace Lutheran Church at 7:00 pm.

It is very Important that our members attend the Voter's Meeting after church on February 19th to talk about the above and fill in the blanks. We will have more details and discussion at the meeting. Please make an effort to attend this meeting. Mark it on your calendar.

The scheduled agenda for the next three meetings:

Meeting #2: Pastoral expectations and job description.

Meeting #3: Parsonage and living arrangements, Pastor's reimbursement and who pays what.

Meeting #4: Opportunities for future evaluation and changes, opportunities for cooperation, authorization and start date.

Grace at Grace,

Tom Monroe

Contact me if you have questions, concerns or comments.

Email: presidentglc22@gmail.com

Cell: (440)935-5099

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 |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Feb. 5th | Dale Rider | Reilly Jones | Jan Koepp & Dale R. | Karen Huston | Dave Jones | Dave Jones |
| Feb. 12, 19, 22 | Paul Castle | Carter Jones | Dave M. & Fred C. | Colleen Karp | Paul Castle | Andy Karp |
| Feb. 26, March 5 | Tom Monroe | David Jones | Bonnie & Lisa | Robin Turnbull | David Jones | Bob Izold |

Let's talk Coffee Hour!

As expressed in January's Newsletter: coffee hour has been scaled down in size and scope. This means less pressure and time needed to host. Non-perishable treats have been purchased for the use of coffee hour.

Talk to me for more details.

The sign-up sheet has been posted in the church hallway. We need your help, please find some dates that work for you to host a simple coffee hour periodically.

Thank you all for your help.

Lee Anne Christner

| <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.

Buildings & Grounds Update

Narthex door bell has been re-installed and is operational for late comers.

~ Dale Rider

Ladies Aid

February 24th at 3:30pm I'm inviting all the Ladies at Grace to join together in the fellowship hall for an afternoon of unhurried conversation. We can talk about what's going on in our lives or our neighborhoods or here at Grace, or just visit with each other about nothing at all. I'll be serving coffee, tea and treats. Looking forward to seeing some new faces.

Don't forget Ladies, our Ladies Aid meeting will be held at 3pm hoping all will stay to visit.

Thank you in advance.
Lee Anne Christner

NAMI News

The local chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) was unable to get enough people signed up in January or February to host their FREE weekly **Family-to-Family Education Course** at Grace. As a result, they are going to try hosting it at their Lorain campus in hopes that more people will be willing to take it. For more information contact NAMI at 440-240-8477 or office@nami-lc.org

Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **NEW worship time change begins:** Sunday, February 5th at **10:30 am**.
- **Confirmation Class:** Monday, February 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th at 7:00 pm at Bethany.
- **Elder's Meeting:** Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 pm.
- **Council Meeting:** Wednesday, February 8th at 7:00 pm.
- **February Voters' Meeting Packets Distributed:** Sunday, February 12th
- **February Quarterly Voters' Meeting:** Sunday, February 19th at 11:45 am.
- **Dual Parish Planning Meeting #2:** Tuesday, February 28th at 7:00 pm at Bethany.
- **March Newsletter Articles Due:** Wednesday, March 1st.