

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
310 West Lorain Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074
(440)775-3271

Interim Pastor Robert Weldon

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.”

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are” (1 John 3:1).



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WELDON

The season of Epiphany is a season of holy revelation. During these weeks, God draws back the curtain and shows us who Jesus truly is—not only for Israel, but for all nations, for all people, and for us. Jesus is revealed as the Light of the world, shining into the darkness and making known the saving heart of God.

The account of the Magi reminds us that God’s revelation often comes in unexpected ways. Guided by a star and sustained by God’s promise, they traveled far without knowing every detail of where the journey would lead. When they arrived, they did not find earthly glory or power. Instead, they found a child. Yet in that child, they saw the King of kings, and they bowed down in worship. Epiphany teaches us that faith trusts what God reveals, even when it runs contrary to human expectations.

In Christ’s revelation, something else is made known as well: our identity. Through Jesus, God reveals not only His Son, but also His children. The apostle John declares, *“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are”* (1 John 3:1). This is not a title we earn or achieve. It is a gift—bestowed freely by God’s grace.

We become children of God through Holy Baptism, where God places His name upon us and joins us to Christ’s death and resurrection. There, the light of Christ first shone into our darkness, forgiving our sins and giving us new life. As Lutherans, we confess that this saving faith is not our own doing, but the work of the Holy Spirit, who calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies us through the Word and Sacraments.

To trust Jesus, then, is to trust both who He is and what He says about us. It is to believe that because of Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and claimed by God as His own children—even when our faith feels weak or our lives feel unsettled. This trust is especially needed in times of grief and loss. As children of God, we are not spared sorrow in this life. We mourn the death of loved ones, feel the ache of separation, and carry heavy hearts. Yet in Epiphany, Christ reveals Himself not only as the Light of our lives, but also as the One who enters our suffering. In our grief, we seek comfort not in empty words or false hope, but in the cross and the open tomb. At the cross, we see a Savior who knows death and bears our sorrow. At the empty tomb, we hear God's promise that death does not have the final word.

Because Jesus lives, those who die in Him live also. Because He has risen, our tears are not meaningless, and our hope is not in vain. Even in loss, we cling to Christ's promise: "*I am the resurrection and the life*" (John 11:25). As children of God, we grieve—but we grieve with hope, trusting that the Light who was revealed in Bethlehem has also conquered the darkness of the grave.

Do you need to speak with a Pastor?

Contact Pastor Weldon on his cell phone at (270) 792-0570 or at his office at (440) 322-5497

God Hears Our Prayers

Please pray for 8 yr. old Treavor (Grandson of friend's of Karen and Glen Fridenstine); Sue Walker's brother, Don Palmer; Diane Senyak and family at the passing of Diane's husband, Ron, who was called to his heavenly home on Tuesday, January 6, 2026; Jackie Mertz and family at the passing of Jackie's husband, Pastor Glenn Mertz, who was called home to be with the Lord on Saturday, December 13, 2025. Pastor Mertz was Grace's beloved Pastor, and he is greatly missed; Karen Huston and family at the passing of Karen's husband, Mark, who was called to his eternal heavenly home on Monday, Nov. 3, 2025; for the family of Kathryn Sharp (Carolyn Husted's sister), who was called from this life to her heavenly home on October 31, 2025; Marcia Metzger (wife), Lisa LaLonde (daughter) and the remaining family of Dave Metzger, who was called to his eternal heavenly home on Thursday, Oct. 2nd (additionally, please continue to pray for Marcia's health); Riley Clark (premature newborn baby of Melissa & Dylan Clark - Riley is home); Glen & Karen Fridenstine; Tom Hadaway; the family of Ken Deidrick (brother-in-law of Bonnie Abicht), who was called to his heavenly home; Teresa Fehlan (mother of Jen Jones); Bill Petersen (brother-in-Law of Fred C. Feddeck); Barbara Hadaway; Carolyn Husted; David Robinson (brother of Lee Anne Christner), Mike & Melissa Bennett (son-in-law and daughter of John and Kathy Knipper); Bev & Ray Hines, and Coralie Swanzer.

Message from GLC President:

As most of you know, I have been elected to be the President of our Church Council. A new year is here and we have a lot of questions about our Church. We do not know God's reasoning, His thoughts are far above our own and we must have faith and trust His higher path over our own limited ideas, especially in times of confusion or trouble. It is a call for humility, repentance, and surrender; recognizing His goodness even when His actions seem mysterious. We do not know why God chose to gather Pastor Mertz in His arms and take him to Heaven, we probably will not know why until we get to Heaven ourselves. So, what is going on now to help us get a Pastor? Pastor Weldon and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod are working toward that goal as I write this note. There is a shortage of available clergy. For now, Pastor Weldon will Preach to us and attend to our funerals, weddings, and baptisms. The goal is to get our own Pastor. We will come through this in God's time, not ours. Until then, come to church, worship with us, and pray with us. Even though we do not agree with or approve of what has happened, we need to hold fast and maintain our trust in God Almighty. After all what is the alternative?

Yours in Christ,
Tom Monroe

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. **Proverbs 3:5-6***



IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY:

(Please note: Services will be every Saturday during February @ 5:00 pm. If you were scheduled for a Sunday, you will serve instead the day before, Saturday ...i.e. if you were scheduled for Sun. 2/9, you will serve on Sat. 2/8. We will have communion every Saturday during February.

GRACE SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

(Please note: Services will be EVERY Saturday during February @ 5:00 pm. If you were scheduled for a Sunday, you will serve instead the day before, Saturday ...i.e. if you were scheduled for Sun. 2/9, you will serve on Sat. 2/8. **We will have communion every Saturday during February.** The 2026 Annual Service Schedule was previously emailed to those serving. **Should you need to change a date, please contact your Lead Person:**

Altar Guild - Robin Turnbull rvtturnbull@gmail.com

Readers - Harriett Thomas hthomas@oberlin.net

Ushers & Communion Assistants - Andy Karp andy.karp@yahoo.com

Counters – Fred C. Feddeck - fordhamlibrary@hotmail.com or Bonnie Abicht abicht54@aol.com

<u>SERVING THE LORD</u>					
DATE	USHER	Counters	Altar Guild	Lay Reader	Comm. Assist.
Jan 31 5pm (Sat)	Dale Rider	Fred C. & Greg	Colleen Karp	Fred C. Feddeck	Andy Karp
Feb 7 5pm (Sat)	Dale Rider	Fred C. & Greg	Robin Turnbull	Fred C. Feddeck	Andy Karp
Feb 14 5pm (Sat)	Paul Castle	Bonnie & Lisa	Robin Turnbull	Dave Jones	Dave Jones
Feb 21 5pm (Sat)	Paul Castle	Bonnie & Lisa	Kathy Knipper	Dave Jones	Dave Jones

Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:30pm with PASTOR WELDON

We will be studying Galatians.

Wednesdays at 7:00pm with HARRIETT THOMAS

Please join us as we continue our study of Joshua.

This is available through Zoom. Please contact Harriett for details.

Upcoming Church Events & Dates

(PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DAYS and/or TIMES... *SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

February 7	4:00 pm	Council Meeting
February 17	6:00 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner (not yet confirmed)
February 18	6:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
February 25	6:00 pm	Lent Service
March 4	6:00 pm	Lent Service
March 11	6:00 pm	Lent Service
March 18	6:00 pm	Lent Service
March 25	6:00 pm	Lent Service
March 29	10:00 pm	Palm Sunday
April 2	6:00 pm	Maundy Thursday
April 3	6:00 pm	Good Friday
April 5	10:00 am	EASTER SUNDAY

We need volunteers!

Please talk to a church council member about becoming a **Communion Assistant, a member of the Altar Guild, a Reader or a Counter**

Let's talk Coffee Hour!

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

SUMMARY OF 11.17.2025 GLC VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

The above meeting took place in the Fellowship Hall of the Church after the Church Service (11:16 am). There were 24 voting members and 1 non-voting individual in attendance. The Agenda and Council Reports were emailed to members a week prior to the meeting for review. Each of said Reports were discussed and approved by those attending. Highlights:

*Andy Karp, Treasurer announced that after 7 years as acting Treasurer, he is stepping down.

*Tom Monroe, B & G reported that the thermostats installed in 2024 started to act erratically, after which the stats being connected to wifi had to be constantly temperature adjusted. It became necessary to lock the thermostats and that seemed to cure the problem. The consequence: our furnaces used too much natural gas and Columbia gas has a penalty of \$150 a month if we use over 3000 ccf's of natural gas. The church used 3517 ccf's for the 12 months October 2024 to September 2025. With the thermostats now locked we now have the temperature swings under control. We will have to pay the penalty for the next 12 months, and then we should go back to our normal bill with no penalty. With that being said: if there are any functions at the Church this winter you must let me know when and I will set the thermostats remotely to accommodate any event.

*A copy of the GLC Proposed 2026 Budget was distributed at the Voters' Meeting. It was reviewed, discussed and a Motion was made to accept the proposed 2026 Budget as is; and said Motion was passed.

If you would like a copy of your 2025 Offering Statement, contact Sue Walker at 440-822-9323 (call or text) or email suze204@hotmail.com.



January Birthdays

Ron Mertz	1/08
Bonnie Abicht	1/19



January Anniversaries

Chris & Rachael Koch 01/22

February Birthdays

Diane Senyak	2/03
Carter Jones	2/10
Myles Bremke	2/13
Lee Anne Christner	2/15

February Anniversaries

Terry & Judy Gornek 2/22 (64 yrs.)

The next Monthly Birthday Celebration for February 2026 will be announced.

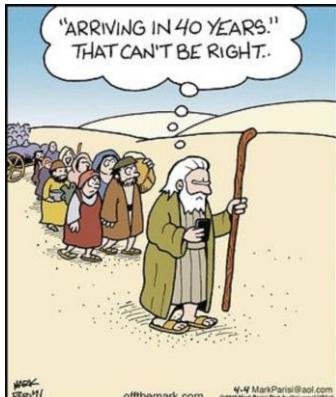
If we missed anyone, please call or text (440-775-3271) or email: secretary4grace@gmail.com.

Worship Information

- **Private Communion** is offered at church or by pastoral home visit whenever requested. Please contact Pastor to schedule.
- If you or a friend cannot be at church with us, you can see videos of our Worship Services online. Go to our website or to our Facebook page at www.grace-churchoberlin.org or <https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurchOberlinOhio>. Our weekly bulletin and the readings are also posted on our website.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

- How did God cure Moses' headache? *He gave him two tablets.*
- Do you need a boat? *I Noah guy.*



(Borrowed from the internet under Free Christian Christmas Humor and jokes)
