

MAY – JUNE 2026

Grace Notes

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

Interim Pastor: Robert Weldon, Sr.
Temporary Pastor: Rev. Christian Just

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.”*



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WELDON

Making Jesus the Priority in Our Daily Lives

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

In a world that constantly competes for our attention, setting priorities can feel overwhelming. Work, family, responsibilities, and endless distractions often crowd our days. Yet, as children of God within the Lutheran Church, we are continually called back to the one foundation that gives meaning to everything else: Jesus Christ.

To make Jesus our priority is not simply to add Him into an already busy schedule—it is to place Him at the center of our lives. As our Lord reminds us in Matthew 6:33, *“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”* This is both a promise and an invitation given to us as His beloved children.

What Does It Mean to Prioritize Jesus?

Making Jesus the priority begins with recognizing who we are—children of God, redeemed and claimed through Christ. Through Baptism, we are brought into God’s family. Through His Word and Sacraments, He continues to sustain and strengthen us as His children. Prioritizing Jesus means:

- Gathering regularly for Divine Service, where Christ comes to serve His children through His Word and Holy Communion.
- Spending time in Scripture and prayer, not out of obligation, but as children speaking with their loving Father.
- Living out our faith in daily vocations—at home, at work, and in our communities—as those who bear His name.

Keeping Christ Above Competing Commitments

One of the most common challenges families face today is balancing church life with sports, extracurricular activities, and other commitments. Practices, games, tournaments, and events often fall on Sundays or during times traditionally set aside for worship and rest.

While these activities can be valuable and enriching, they can also slowly shift our priorities if we are not careful. When we consistently choose activities over gathering with God's people, we may unintentionally teach ourselves—and our children—that Jesus comes second.

As children of God, we are called to a different rhythm—one shaped not by the world, but by the gifts our Father gives. Placing Christ first may sometimes require difficult decisions:

- Choosing worship even when it conflicts with a game or practice.
- Setting clear family expectations that Sunday morning is reserved for the Lord.
- Modeling for our children that faith is not just one activity among many, but the foundation of life.

The Call to Sacrifice

Following Jesus has always involved sacrifice. Our Lord Himself says in Luke 9:23, *“If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”* At times, prioritizing Christ means giving up things we genuinely enjoy or that feel important in the moment.

This may look like:

- Setting aside personal plans in order to be present for worship or service.
- Letting go of opportunities that conflict with time devoted to God and His Word.
- Choosing what is eternal over what is immediate or temporary.

These sacrifices are not about losing joy, but about living as children who trust their Father's wisdom. When we surrender our own priorities, we grow in faith, knowing that our Father provides what we truly need. In Christ, nothing given up for His sake is ever truly lost.

A Reflection on the First Commandment

The First Commandment teaches us: *“You shall have no other gods.”* In his explanation, Martin Luther writes that we are to fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

As children of God, this commandment speaks directly to our hearts. Whatever we fear, love, or trust the most becomes our “god.” It may not be a carved idol, but it can easily be success, comfort, sports, schedules, achievements, or even our own desires.

When we place these things ahead of Jesus, they take a place in our hearts that belongs to our Heavenly Father alone. Yet, as His children, we are not left in guilt. In Christ, we receive forgiveness for the times we fail. He perfectly trusted the Father in our place, and through Him, we are restored.

This means we are free to return again and again to our Father—re-centered, forgiven, and renewed as His children.

The Challenge of Distractions

Modern life pulls us in many directions. It is easy to let faith become secondary—something we “fit in” when convenient. But when Jesus is not at the center, we often feel the effects: restlessness, anxiety, and a lack of purpose.

As children of God, we are invited into something better. Christ does not ask for a portion of our lives—He gave His whole life for us. In response, we are called to trust Him fully, knowing that He is faithful in all things.

Practical Ways to Refocus

- Begin each day with a short devotion or prayer as children speaking to their Father.
- Set aside intentional time each week for worship and rest in His presence.
- Review family schedules regularly to ensure church remains a priority.
- Practice saying “no” to certain commitments in order to say “yes” to what matters most.
- Reflect regularly on God’s promises, especially during difficult seasons.
- Encourage one another in faith within your family and congregation as fellow children of God.

A Life Centered in Christ

When Jesus is our priority, everything else finds its proper place. Our work becomes service, our relationships become opportunities for love, and our activities—even sports and hobbies—become gifts enjoyed in balance rather than masters that control us.

As children of God, we walk together in this calling—not perfectly, but faithfully—trusting always in our Father’s mercy.

In Christ,
Pastor Weldon

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 Tom & Barb Hathaway; Marcia Metzger; Don Palmer (brother of Sue Walker); James Kippen (cousin of Tina Harrell); Mike & Melissa Bennett (son-in-law and daughter of John and Kathy Knipper) and Bev & Ray Hines.

Please remember to keep Grace’s shut-ins, widows and widowers in your prayers. A phone call or greeting card can go a long way in lifting one’s spirits. It is also a way to share our Savior’s love.

*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***

GRACE SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2026

DATE	USHER	COUNTERS	ALTAR GUILD	LAY READER	COMM. ASSIST.
May 3 10 am Sun	Paul Castle	Jan & Dale	Robin Turnbull	Dave Jones	Dave Jones
May 10 10 am Sun	Andy Karp	Fred C. & Gregg	Kathy Knipper	Harriett Thomas	Bob Izold
May 17 10 am Sun	Andy Karp	Bonnie & Lisa	Kathy Knipper	Paul Castle	Paul Castle
May 24 10 am Sun	Tom Monroe	Fred C. & Gregg	Kathy Knipper	Harriett Thomas	Bob Izold
May 31 10 am Sun	Tom Monroe	Fred C. & Gregg	Collen Karp	Harriett Thomas	Bob Izold

GRACE SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2026

DATE	USHER	COUNTERS	ALTAR GUILD	LAY READER	COMM. ASSIST.
June 7 10 am Sun	Tom Monroe	Jan & Paul	Colleen Karp	Jon Storr	Andy Karp
June 14 10 am Sun	Lee Anne Christner	Jan & Paul	Robin Turnbull	Jon Storr	Andy Karp
June 21 10 am Sun	Lee Anne Christner	Bonnie & Greg	Robin Turnbull	Fred C. Feddeck	Greg Christner
June 28 10 am Sun	Dale Rider	Bonnie & Greg	Kathy Knipper	Fred C. Feddeck	Greg Christner

Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 10:45 am with Pastor Just

(Date and subject yet to be determined.)

Wednesdays at 1:30 pm with PASTOR WELDON

On Wed. May 27th, we will have a one-day study on the 5 Solas.

Then on Wed., June 3rd, we will begin the study of 1st Timothy.

**CLASSES WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE SUMMER, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO WEEKS IN JULY
TBA.**

Wednesdays at 7:00pm with HARRIETT THOMAS

We will be reviewing the last chapter of Galatians, and will then study Psalm 119 the month of June.

Please join us ***

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

*** Lord willing, all study will be on Zoom for the remainder of May and June. Anyone that is interested in joining our Study can contact Harriett Thomas at hthomas@oberlin.net or 440-935-2349, with their email address. She will forward the Zoom link, which will be active for all three months. All are welcome to join us.

HARRIETT WILL NOT BE HAVING CLASSES DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY & AUGUST.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Beverly Hines	5/04
Kathy Sklarek	5/18
Sue Walker	5/20
Kathy Knipper	5/27



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Ron and Jan Mertz	5/29/1953
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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

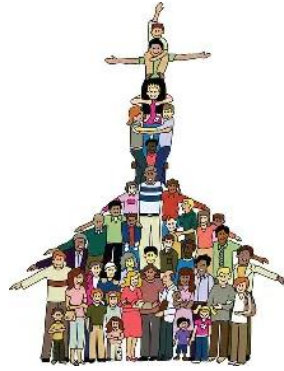
Norma Stechow	6/02
Colleen Karp	6/03
Karen Fridenstine	6/12
Giovanna Bremke	6/16
David Jones	6/20
Carolyn Husted	6/25
Chris Koch	6/27

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

John & Kathy Knipper	6/15/1964
Robin & Glenn Turnbull	6/15/1991

Please notify the Church Office (ph 440-775-3271 OR email: secretary4grace@gmail.com) if the above info is incorrect OR we are missing anyone's Birthday or Anniversary.

It takes a village...or a congregation!!!



Let's talk Coffee Hour!

● **Join Us for Coffee Hour & Fellowship!** 🍪

Friends, our Coffee Hour after Sunday service is more than just coffee and cookies — it's a time to connect, laugh, and share life together. But we can't do it without you!

We're looking for helping hands to set up the coffee and light snacks (provided by Ladies' Aid) or simply greet folks you know and those you don't with a smile. Whether you're a master baker, a coffee enthusiast, or just love making people feel welcome, your presence makes a difference.

Sign up today (Sheet in Hallway on Bulletin Board) to host or help — even once can bless our whole community. Let's keep the warmth brewing and the conversations flowing!

GOD's Church and Grace Lutheran Church needs volunteers! Please talk to a church council member about becoming a **Communion Assistant, a member of the Altar Guild, a Reader or a Counter.** As members OF God's Church, we ALL need to take turns serving, so that our fellow saints do not get burned out. Please pray about this.

A sincere Thank You to all current volunteers.



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

- I used to be a baker, but I couldn't make enough dough.
- So what if I don't know what apocalypse means? It's not the end of the world!
- What did the grape say when it got crushed? Nothing, it just let out a little wine.
- What do you use to cut a Roman Emperor's hair? Caesars.
- My friend drove his expensive car into a tree and found out how his Mercedes bends.
- I can't believe I got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take a day off!
- Some aquatic mammals at the zoo escaped. It was otter chaos!
- It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they always take things literally.
- I was wondering why the ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.
- England doesn't have a kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- Never discuss infinity with a mathematician; they can go on about it forever.
- The guy who invented the door knocker got a no-bell prize.
- My friend's bakery burned down last night. Now, his business is toast.
- I lost my mood ring, and I don't know how to feel about it!
- Smaller babies may be delivered by stork, but the heavier ones need a crane.
- I knew a guy who collected candy canes; they were all in mint condition.

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

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.

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