

THE VOICE OF GRACE

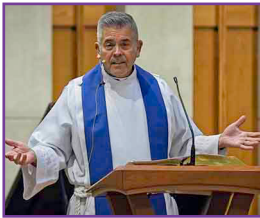
FEBRUARY 2024

Lent
fast • give • pray

WWW.GRACE43081.ORG



*A Note
from
Pastor Wendel*



Ash Wednesday and Lent at Grace Ev. Lutheran Church!

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ; by grace you have been saved... Ephesians 2:4-5

Christians have long described Ash Wednesday as the “door” through which we enter the season of Lent! Ash Wednesday calls to mind the words of the Lord God to Adam and Eve, after they had sinned. As the Lord was speaking to them words of judgement as the consequence of their disobedience, he reminded them, “you are dust and to dust you shall return.” It was (and is!) a stark and sobering word to us as the Lord God calls to mind our mortality and the result of sin is death. At the same time, it is a call to repentance, renewal and transformation as we journey through the season of Lent, on our way to Holy Week and Easter.

Often, Lent can be misunderstood. Folks think of Lent as dark, depressing, negative as the focus is thought to be on our sinfulness. While Lent is a season for reflection upon our sin, that reflection is always for the sake of absolution and new beginnings! Our brief order for confession at the beginning of each worship service is always, always for the sake of forgiveness, so that we may worship and live anew as the redeemed people we are!

For this reason, to be reminded that Ash Wednesday and Lent are first and foremost about “grace,” our theme for our

journey to Holy Week and Easter will be “Amazing Grace!” with our theme verse from Ephesians, “By grace you have been saved!” In our services, we will focus on and emphasize that the ashen crosses we receive on Ash Wednesday, the reflection and renewal we seek during Lent are all possible only because of God’s “Amazing Grace!” I will be preaching on Sundays during Lent and Molly will offer homilies on the theme at Wednesday midweek Lenten services. Please join with our congregational community for our Lenten observance, and consider inviting others to come, share God’s amazing grace with us!

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14:

7:30 AM: Simple spoken service of confession with imposition of ashes. This service will be approx. 20 minutes in length, providing those who desire to receive the imposition of ashes at the beginning of the day. It will not be a preaching service, nor will there be Holy Communion.

12:15 PM: Simple spoken service of Word and Sacrament with sermon, Holy Communion and imposition of ashes. This midday service is provided for those who may be unable to attend the full evening service. It may be especially helpful for those who would like to worship on Ash Wednesday but prefer not to drive or leave home in the evening.

7:00 PM Ash Wednesday service of Word and Sacrament with imposition of ashes, sermon, music and Holy Communion.

Wednesday Mid-week

Lenten observances:

Feb. 21 - March 20

6 PM Soup Suppers

7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer

As a final note this month, I would like to share my cell phone number, 719-650-8171 and encourage you to call or text my cell phone! This is the most expeditious and timely way to reach me. You may also email me at d.wendel@grace43081.org, however, cell phone or text is quickest. At the same time, given the volume of messages we sometimes receive, if you don’t receive a response from a phone call or text within 24 hours, feel free to reach out again. My goal is always to respond to you as quickly as possible. However, it is possible to miss a particular call, text or email at times! Thanks for your help! In Christ,

Pastor Wendel

Congregational Visitation by Pastor Wendel

Upon the beginning of his ministry at Grace in early December, Pastor Wendel has been focused on visiting every home to become better acquainted with all who are involved at Grace Lutheran Church. Council member, Becky Seifert, is scheduling and coordinating these visits.

You may contact Becky at seifert-becky@yahoo.com or 614-378-6023. Should you need to contact Pastor Wendel for a last minute change, feel free to call or text him at 719-650-8171.

For anyone who may prefer to meet in pastor’s office, please let Becky know when scheduling!



Time Change for 1st Service

**Beginning Sunday,
February 11**

the first service will begin at

8:15 am

rather than 8:30 am.

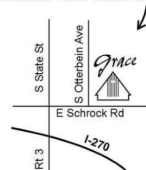
To our guests

WELCOME TO GRACE
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

We invite our guests to accept a "Guest Bag" that contains information about Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The guest bags are located at the Welcome Center, just outside the entrance to the sanctuary. Ask an usher or any member for assistance.

You're invited! Here's how to find us.



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

100 E. Schrock Road, Westerville, OH 43081

Office Hours:

Monday thru Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Friday 9 a.m. to Noon

PH: 614-882-3026 • e-mail: office@grace43081.org • Website: www.grace43081.org

Facebook: facebook.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranWesterville



Grace Lutheran has been serving the Westerville community for more than 114 years, supporting local ministries such as the Westerville Area Resource Ministry (W.A.R.M.), Westerville Partnership Habitat for Humanity and the Westerville CROP Walk. Grace also supports Lutheran Social Services programs like Faith Mission and provides weekly space for four AA groups (*Tuesday, Friday & Saturday*). The Red Cross Bloodmobile, Vacation Bible School, the Autism Buddy Camp and Joyful Noise Concerts also are a benefit to the Westerville community.

Grace Staff

David Wendel, Pastor d.wendel@grace43081.org
719-650-8171

Molly King, Director of Youth and Family Ministries
614-581-6675 m.king@grace43081.org

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2024 Church Council

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Treasurer Melissa Hodek
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Pastor Pr. David Wendel
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Members at Large:

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937-657-8644

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614-886-8272

Becky Seifert seifertbecky@yahoo.com
614-378-6023

Jackie Washburn
jackiegardner1@hotmail.com
614-580-5531

Worship Services

Holy Communion

EVERY Sunday Morning

Two Worship Services: 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School

(Beginning Feb. 18)

Youth Sunday School classes K-6

9:30 to 10:45 upstairs in the Preschool Room.

Confirmation and High School

9:45 to 10:45. Basement Youth Room

Adult Learning

9:45 a.m. Fellowship Hall

The Nursery

Open Sunday mornings during both services and the Sunday School hour.



North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

The NALC embraces four core values:

Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused.

The NALC is focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples in North America and around the globe.

Learn more about Grace and the NALC.

Phone: +1 888 551 7254 •

E-mail: info@thenalc.org Website: thenalc.org

Vision Statement

We envision Grace to be a welcoming Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to reach out with the love of Jesus to grow disciples and serve our community.

On January 28, 2024, the 2024 Church Council was installed at the 11 am service:

Tami Banks, Jim Caldwell
Nelson Grover, Melissa Hodek,
Lisa Kuhar, Ted Ray,
Becky Seifert, Jackie Washburn

Thanks to these members who have committed to the work of the Church by serving on the Council.

Holy Week Schedule

March 24– Palm Sunday,
8:15 am and 11:00 am

March 28 – Maundy Thursday,
The Lord's Supper, 7 pm

March 29 – Good Friday Tenebrae, 7 pm

March 31– Easter, 8:15 am and 11:00 am
(9:30 am Easter Breakfast)

Service Recording:

The recorded 8:15 am service will be available at noon www.grace43081.org

Loaves and Fishes Café

Stop in between services. There is a sign-up sheet in the café if you are interested in helping. Please call Regina Place, 614-623-1452 or Vanessa Stewart, 614-588-2712 with questions or concerns.



The highlights of the January Council meeting are as follows:

- Council voted to allow Jon Sweet to move forward with the plans to construct a new electronic message center/ground sign to replace the current church sign near the corner of Schrock and Otterbein.
Jon is also working to have the roof repairs completed on the shingles as well as locating and correcting some leaks that have been recently identified.
The major components of our new columbaria have been shipped and we will move forward with their placement and completion upon arrival.
The upcoming council retreat will be moved from February to April due to some scheduling conflicts.
Council officers for 2024 will be:
President: Jim Caldwell
Vice President: Lisa Kuhar
Secretary: Tami Banks
Treasurer: Melissa Hodek (voted by congregation at November 2023 meeting)
For the month of December, expenses exceeded receipts by \$6,619. For the year, expenses exceeded receipts by \$20,023.



Respectfully submitted by Tami Banks, Secretary

Treasurer's Report - from Melissa Hodak, Treasurer

As we close the books on 2023, I want to thank you for your generosity. In the wake of several major repair projects and a new pastor we were able to close out the year with a deficit of only \$20,000. This deficit was paid mostly out of what remained in our savings account but \$3,000 was paid from our Mission Fund. Please contact me or the Church Office for the full Treasurer's Report or with any questions.

Recap of our MTD and YTD receipts and disbursements.

Table with 4 columns: Category, Budget, Actuals, YTD Budget, YTD Actuals. Rows include Receipts and Disbursements for December 2023 and YTD 2023.

Treasurer's Reports can be requested from either Melissa Hodek at melissa.hodek@gmail.com or from the Church Office. If you have questions please contact any member of Council.

Offering Envelopes for 2024 are available on a table in the Gathering Space

Facility News - from Jon Sweet, Facilities Manager

Work toward the expansion of the existing Columbarium is now moving forward. The granite has been delivered to the United States, and is currently being fabricated into the monuments to be delivered to Grace. The original 35 niches of our columbarium are all sold. The new expansion will add 70 niches. Members will be able to begin the niche acquisition process approximately March 1 once all of the final construction steps and costs have been finalized.

Plans have been put into motion to renovate and update the wall sign at the intersection of Schrock and Otterbein. The present brick and stone monument will be preserved, with new aluminum letters replacing the current ones, and an electronic message center will be added pending the approval of local zoning officials.

Reminder - Mission Funds Available

Members may request grants from the Mission Fund to be used to support the mission and ministries of Grace. Request applications are available in the office and must be returned to Council before April 1, Aug. 1 or Dec. 1 each year to be considered for that cycle's approval. Council, (with the help of the Ministry and Committee leads) will prioritize and approve funding on a rolling basis. If you have questions, reach out to any member of council.

Scan to Simply Give

This QR code connects you to the mobile version of Grace's online giving page to give you a quick and easy way to access our webpage without having to type out a long web address. Through this link, you can create a one-time or on-going donation and to specify where you want your gift to be applied. The Simply Giving® Program (endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union) is an automated stewardship program that helps members give generously. Scan to Simply Give today.



Flowers for 2024:

Flowers at Grace can honor a special event, remember a loved one or simply give glory to God. You may sign up at the welcome center, on-line or call the office. The actual cost of flowers has increased to \$75.00 a Sunday. The suggested donation will now be \$30. Since that does not cover the cost, this donation is not to purchase flowers for your own, but contribute for the enjoyment of all. After the service, the arrangement is moved to the welcome center for the following week to enhance our space even longer.



Grace's Gang
 Messages from Molly
 Molly King, Director
 Youth & Family Ministries
 m.king@grace43081.org or
 614-882-3026.



**Youth and Family
 Vision Statement:**
 To nurture Youth and Family
 in Christ
 through Bible based teaching,
 music, activities
 and community outreach.



SUPER BOWL SUNDAY GAME TIME

Super/Souper Bowl Sunday is Sunday, February 11! Here are two ways to do **SUPER** and/or **SOUPER** contributions on the occasion of Super Bowl LVIII.

(1) Kettles will be out in the Gathering Space to collect monetary donations. Donate towards your favorite team or **"I don't care" (IDC)**. Who do you want to win the **SUPER BOWL**?



(2) We are also collecting cans of soup on **SOUPER BOWL** Sunday. Bins will be in the Gathering Space to drop in your cans of soup.



The cans of soup and kettle collection will be donated to WARM. Regardless of who wins, it'll be a **SUPER SUNDAY**



Let's get together and bowl February 3 at 2:00. We will meet at Delaware Lanes, 536 Sunbury Road in Delaware. Youth and Family will pay for the bowling shoes. Sign up at the Welcome Center. Any questions email Molly King, m.king@grace43081.org.

MY VERY OWN BLANKET

On January 14th, during the Sunday School hour, our 5th graders through high school students, along with some helpers and women from Grace Stitchers, put together blankets for **My Very Own Blanket**. We had 35 blankets to put together and got through most of them during the SS hour. Some volunteers took the unfinished blankets home to complete them. Thanks to all who helped with completing this project.

My Very Own Blanket is dedicated to warming the heart of every child in the foster care system and children in need, with a blanket to give them a feeling of comfort and security. It's good to know someone cares.



**Saturday, January 6
Blue Jackets vs Minnesota Wild**



On January 6th our Youth and Family event was at the Columbus Blue Jackets. CBJ played the Minnesota Wild and lost. There were 31 people from Grace in attendance. Our rep for the Blue Jackets game gave each of us a CBJ scarf since we weren't able to attend Faith and Family Night in early December. Thank you to Jon Sweet for pulling some strings and making this happen. We had a great time!

LENTEN RICE BOWLS

During Lent we will be collecting loose change in rice bowls. You can get a rice bowl starting February 13th in the gathering space. The rice bowls are due back March 24th (Palm Sunday). The Rice Bowl organization partners with loving children's homes around the world to help provide delicious, locally sourced meals. Their mission is to feed orphaned children around the world.



High Schoolers Pizza and a Movie!

We will meet Sunday evening, Feb. 4, 5:30 PM at the home of Molly King, 130 Big Run Road, Delaware. We hope to have a monthly high schoolers gathering, rotating between Molly's home and the home of Pastor Wendel. **Friends are invited and encouraged!** The intention is to develop and strengthen relationships in a relaxing environment. Signup at the church! Questions? Call or text Pastor Wendel (719-650-8171) or Molly, (614-581-6675).

Dear Partners,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your support of The Salvation Army. Thanks to your generosity, countless families and children in need were able to experience a memorable holiday season. With your help, The Salvation Army provided thousands of families with a Red Box filled with food for a delightful holiday breakfast and a holiday dinner, games to enjoy, and toys and stocking stuffers for every child. Once again, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for your support and for positively impacting our community.



DOING THE MOST GOOD

2023 CHRISTMAS REPORT

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED	TOY DRIVE RESULTS
• Individuals Served – 18,130	• 174 Businesses/Groups hosted an Angel Tree toy drive this year
• Total Households Served – 4,712	• \$62,325.53 raised for the Angel Tree program this year.
• Children Given Gifts – 10,362	
• Extra Blessing Gifts Given – 5,087	
• Total Gifts Given – 33,249	

Best Regards,
Mariana Olortiga, Donor Relations Assistant
The Salvation Army | Columbus Area Services

ED.Note: As reported last month, Grace members donated 163 toys to the Salvation Army Angel Tree Drive in 2023. Many Thanks.



Grace Supper Club had a wonderful evening at Lucky House Chinese Restaurant last month. For February, we have a reservation at Bru Burger Bar on Thursday, February 15 at 6:15 p.m. Bru Burger is located at 691 North Cleveland Avenue, Westerville 43082. A sign up sheet is at the Welcome Center Desk. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!** Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. Any questions, please see either Bev Grubb - mgrubb1148@gmail.com or Tami Stone - stone8059@sbcglobal.net.

The Grace Church Intercessory Prayer Team is here for you. We are now 18 members strong and are here to pray for your needs: – health issues, direction on an important decision, safe travels, thanksgiving for an answered prayer - there is not any need that is too big or too small for you to ask for prayer.



The Prayer Box is at the back of the sanctuary with request forms, or you can use the Grace website – the “Prayer Request” link is on the top right of the web page. Martin Luther said: “Prayer is a very precious medicine, one that helps and never fails.” -Donna Dettman - donnadett@aol.com.

Grace Stitchers Prepare for New Year, New Projects

from Vanessa Stewart

The Grace Stitchers had their first meeting of the year January 23. Pastor Wendel opened the meeting in prayer. He presented the group with some beautiful material he had received while on a mission trip for use in one of our projects- Thank You Pr Wendel!

The 13 attendees, including 3 first timers, were treated to coffee and dessert prepared by Twyla Ridder while Shirley Hodeck shared her experience and some pictures of delivering the group's donation of dresses and shorts to Little Dresses for Africa in Rockwood, Michigan.

After review of last year's projects, the group decided to continue their ministry with **Little Dresses for Africa**, drawstring bags for **Operation Christmas Child**, and **Turbans**. Our involvement with the youth's **My Very Own Blanket** service will expand. We plan to prep bolts of fleece, purchased by Youth & Family, into the blankets kits the youth are used to finishing. By doing this we keep the cost per blanket down so more can be completed and donated.

We have planned a group 'bring a sack lunch' work afternoon **Tuesday Feb 20 from noon to 3 pm at the church**. We plan to cut and prepare 5 bolts of fleece into 30-35 blankets kits for the youth to complete at a later time. We invite anyone interested to join us. We will not be sewing, only material cutting. We can use



the help, why not join us? Questions? Contact Vanessa Stewart.

Photo at left shows project material set out for pick-up by Stitchers.

Altar Guild Meeting Planned!

A meeting of the Altar Guild is planned for Saturday February 3, 2024 9:30-11 am in the Loaves & Fishes café. It is a great time for anyone wanting to join in this vital ministry or just interested in knowing more about how we serve our family of Grace to join us - no reservation needed! I plan to review Captain and Team assignments, review the updates in our procedures, and have Pr Wendel in attendance to elaborate on any changes being made, answer any questions we may have, and encourage us in our ministry. There will be plenty of coffee and bakery goodies as we share this time together. I would encourage any current members to bring a friend who may be interested in serving with you to come check us out! Please contact Vanessa Stewart for more information 614-588-2712.



Dartball's 2023-2024 season is here! Contact Robert Bassett at 419.236.4293 or rgbassettiii@gmail.com with any questions. Upcoming matches:

- 2/1 at Epiphany
- 2/8 at FBGC
- 2/15 Grace of God

Yarn Matters

Next meeting:

Tuesday, February 27, 6:30 pm
Call Jodi Arreguin
614-946-3344 for information about the Yarn Matters.



Thank You.

Mary Bates, the NALC Disaster Response Coordinator, recently sent a thank you card to the Church Office thanking the congregation for donating gift card to the relief effort in Clarksville, Tennessee in the aftermath of the December 9, 2023 tornado. Mary and her crew will make good use of the gift cards in Tennessee.

As the NALC's Disaster Response Coordinator, Mary Bates administers the use of the fund, working cooperatively with and through local NALC congregations and members, as well as other compatible disaster relief organizations such as LCMS Disaster Response. For more information contact Mary at: (740-509-1132; disasterresponse@thenalc.org)



ADULT BIBLE STUDIES



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

(Fellowship Hall)

“That the World May Know” – How do you live in a culture where the world view conflicts with Christianity? Learn from Paul as he presents his beliefs to the most powerful court in Athens and settles among the Greco-Romans of Corinth, among those who valued wealth and class, worshiped multiple gods, and decadent pleasures above all else. Discover how to live in your own Athens or Corinth – an increasingly secular Western world – in a way that glorifies God.

Renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan guides you through the lands of the Bible. In each lesson, Vander Laan illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures. Filmed on location in the Middle East, the “film series will transform your understanding of God and challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus.

This session will begin on February 11th. This class meets in fellowship hall between services beginning at 9:45 and is facilitated by Bill Kulju.



RUTH CIRCLE (Rose Garden 1)

Ruth Circle will meet on February 12th at 1:00 in Rose Garden Room #1. Twyla Ridder will lead the discussion on Lesson 2, “*The One and Only*”, based on 1 Kings 18:16-39. Coleen Wooster will provide light refreshments. Please join us.

If you have questions, call Dorothea Fuhrman at 614-205-8111.

KATHARINE CIRCLE (Rose Garden 2&3)

Katharine Circle will meet Monday, February 5, at the church at 1:00 p.m. We are doing a study on “*God’s Reluctant Leaders*.” During this year we are focusing on Jonah, Gideon, and Moses. Linda Seamon will lead session 6 this month entitled: “*Idols Among Us*”. All women are invited to join us. Please contact Dorothy Crain with any questions - 614-264-5304.



THE WOMEN’S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY (Fellowship Hall)

Our Bible study, which began on January 10, 2024, is from RightNowMedia. We are studying The Gospel of John: Part 1 by Dr. Tony Evans. Description: Where do you turn when the world around you grows dark? In this study of the Gospel of John, Dr. Evans encourages us to turn to Christ by reminding us of the two purposes for this beloved disciples book- that we would believe in Jesus and find life in his name. Despite what our culture may argue, there is only one hope that is truly trustworthy and that is our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you don’t already have a RightNow Media account contact Molly King, m.king@grace43081.org. The women’s Bible study meets in Fellowship Hall every Wednesday Morning at 10:30 a.m. Contact Molly with queries.

The value of Bible study?

Christianity was never intended to be a spectator sport, Bible study is not just valuable, it is invaluable. Group study is so effective that Jesus used it to train the men who would be known as the apostles (Luke 6:12–16; Mark 4:34).

Christianity is meant to be relational—first, on a vertical axis between ourselves and God and, second, on a horizontal axis between ourselves and those around us. Bible study groups move us from being spectators in the church service to active participants in a like-minded community dedicated to spiritual growth.

In Bible study we encounter God’s Word together, we have an opportunity to share our different perspectives and insights and are broadened because of the interaction. More information is retained when there is active involvement, so biblical literacy is enhanced. Application and accountability bring understanding that moves God’s Word from the intellect to the heart.

Transformation is encouraged (Romans 12:2), and our lives are changed. When our lives are changed, the lives of those around us are changed as well.

Our Bible study can be a place to celebrate life’s victories, get prayer support, be encouraged in tough times and keep ourselves accountable in our personal growth. Bible studies offer a structured time to focus on topics that address our needs or interests. They offer an enlivening arena to help carry us from Sunday to Sunday and a safe place to work out the challenges we face.

Believers are the Body of Christ (Romans 12:5); as such, we are His hands and feet on earth, the ones who will continue His work. First Corinthians 12:4–12, Romans 12:4–8, and Ephesians 4:11–13 list the gifts given to the Body. Bible studies are where many people begin to identify and express those gifts. As we gain in our knowledge of the Bible and deepen our relationship with God and other believers (Colossians 2:7), we become bet-

ter equipped to live and share the gospel with those in our schools, neighborhoods, and workplaces.

Our commitment to a Bible study is a model to those around us. It is evidence that we value our spiritual growth enough to invest time in it. Our children are watching our actions, and they gain firsthand knowledge of what it means to be a follower of Christ and honor the Word. They benefit from our commitment because they see us walking our talk, working out our salvation (Philippians 2:12).

God designed us to need Him and each other. His word to us is to reach out and love one another. Colossians 3:16 says we should allow “the message of Christ [to] dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.” What better place for that than in a Bible study?

(taken from GotQuestions.org, the flagship site of Got Questions Ministries)

Music Notes



By Jeff Daubenmire,
Director of Music Ministries
music@grace43081.org

Sunday School update:
Changes to Sunday School-
Beginning February 18
the Sunday School/ Youth Choir music opening will be a combined meeting at 9:30. All the children will meet for the 20 minute opening in the Sunday School elementary classroom with the keyboard.



First Sunday After Christmas December 31, 2023

PRELUDE

"In the Bleak Midwinter" "Roses and Angels"

Linda Hoch - Piano

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Coventry Carol"

Jeff Daubenmire - Piano,

Linda Hoch - Organ

COMMUNION MUSIC

Special Selections by Jeff Daubenmire

POSTLUDE

"Three Festive Carols"

Jeff Daubenmire - Piano,

Linda Hoch - Organ

3rd Sunday After the Epiphany January 21, 2024

PRELUDE

"We All Are One in Mission"

"O Christ, Our True and Only Light"

Linda Hoch - Organ

SPECIAL MUSIC

8:30 "Medley of Epiphany Hymns"

- arr. Larry Seifert -

Larry Seifert - Piano

11:00 "Lift Your Light"

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

COMMUNION MUSIC

Special Selections by Larry Seifert

POSTLUDE

"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

Linda Hoch - Organ

Baptism of Our Lord January 7, 2024

PRELUDE

"Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"
To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord"

Linda Hoch - Piano

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Allegro" from Sonata in E - Handel

Sammy Gurgiolo, trumpet

POSTLUDE

"All Who Believe and Are Baptized"

Linda Hoch - Piano

2nd Sunday After the Epiphany January 14, 2024

PRELUDE

"Chorale Prelude on Munich"

Linda Hoch - Piano

SPECIAL MUSIC

8:30 "Lift Your Light"

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

11:00 "Here I Am, Lord"

Jeff Daubenmire - Piano, Linda Hoch - Organ

COMMUNION MUSIC

"He Leadeth Me"

Jeff Daubenmire - Piano,

Linda Hoch - Organ

POSTLUDE

"Bright and Glorious Is the Sky"

Linda Hoch - Organ

4rd Sunday After the Epiphany January 28, 2024

PRELUDE

"Give Me Jesus" "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Linda Hoch - Organ

SPECIAL MUSIC

8:30 "The Lord is My Light"

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

11:00 "For the Beauty of the Earth" -

Martha Crist - Piano, Linda Hoch - Organ

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Let All Things Now Living"

"This Is My Father's World"

Martha Crist - Piano

POSTLUDE

"Postlude on Salzburg"

Linda Hoch - Organ



Aaron Schwartz is an award-winning classical violinist and chamber musician, as well as being an accomplished fiddler and jazz musician. Aaron creates chamber music arrangements and performs regularly with the Caroga Lake Music Festival, Opera Project Columbus, and the KASA Quartet.

In February, Joyful Noise Concerts Presents...

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

JOYFUL NOISE CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS...

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH 12:30 P.M.

Aaron Schwartz

VIOLINIST

Free Admission Donations are Welcome

100 E. Schrock Rd. Westerville, OH 43081

Grace Chancel Choir rehearsals: 7:00-8:15 PM on Wednesdays. Contact Jeff Daubenmire with questions or interest in singing.

Sunday School & Grace Youth Choir rehearsals: Sundays 9:30-9:45 AM. Beginning Feb. 18, SS & Youth Choir will be combined.

Grace Ringers Bell Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:15-7 PM. Contact Maria Laderman with questions or interest in ringing.

Secret Sisters Wrap-up 2023 and Look Ahead to 2024

from Lisa Kuhar



On January 14 Grace Secret Sisters held their 2023 Reveal and 2024 kickoff. At the luncheon participants enjoyed quiche, egg bakes and fruit and heard a message from Pastor Wendel around the theme, Scripture and Snowflakes.



During a final gift exchange, the women learned the name of their 2023 Secret Sister.



Those participating in 2024 Secret Sisters were given an envelope with the name of their 2024 Secret Sister along with some information about them.



Throughout this year each member is encouraged to pray for her Secret Sister and provide a card or small gift each month. The group will meet for fellowship and lunch on April 14, October 6, and January 19.

Thank You! A note of thanks for our church family for all the support we have received during Bob's struggle with COPD. The visits from Pastors Cox and Wendel, communion visits, delicious food, greeting cards and most of all your prayers. We are so grateful. -Billie and Bob Bower

John 16:33

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Jim Caldwell Heading to Prison - Again

Last March, you, the wonderful cookie bakers of Grace, made 190 DOZEN cookies that made their way to the North Central Correctional Complex in Marion, Ohio. These cookies were a part of the 8500 dozen cookies distributed to the residents during the Kairos Ministry Weekend. Jim Caldwell reports that the joy that these cookies bring to the complex is an amazing blessing. Your cookies and your prayers on behalf of the residents and the Kairos volunteers are very much appreciated.



Jim is headed back to the prison on March 14 to the 17th. He is counting on the Grace cookie bakers again this year.

Cookies for Kairos Guidelines

Thank you for volunteering to bake Kairos Cookies! Following these guidelines will help ensure that your cookies will be most effectively used to do the work for which God inspired you to bake.

Make your cookies sturdy. They will need to be handled several times before they arrive in the prisoners' hands. Delicate, pretty cookies will crumble. Chewy cookies and brownies tend to end up as a single large featureless lump.

- Chocolate chip cookies are always a popular choice. If chocolate chip cookies are not possible, snicker doodles and peanut butter are also popular.
- Size - Try to make the cookies 2 to 3 inches in diameter. Consistent size is important.
- 2 dozen per bag in a one gallon bag. Please count your cookies carefully. Any bag with other than 2 dozen needs to be marked. **(Please Note: This is a change. Previously we asked for only 1 dozen per bag. Now it is 2 dozen per bag.)**
- No powdered sugar, frosting, or raisin cookies. Chocolate chips, M and M's and Reese's pieces are fine.
- Do not put notes in the bag or on the bag. We will have to remove them before the cookies go into the prison.
- Please use zip-loc bags to keep the cookies as fresh as possible.
- Do not use burned or blemished cookies. Remember the cookies are intended to represent God's unconditional love to the prisoners.
- Cookie mixes and pre-mixed dough from the store are fine.
- Pray. As you bake the cookies, pray for the inmates who will receive them. Your prayers are very important to the prisoners.

If you have any questions please contact Jim Caldwell at 614-361-6631, jtcfms@aol.com.

These Kairos Cookies are for North Central Correctional Complex (NC-CC), Marion OH, for the weekend of March 14 – 17, 2024. Please turn in cookies by **Wednesday, March 6, 2024.** Thank you very much for supporting Kairos Prison Ministry and God Bless you for your service to this ministry!

- Jim Caldwell

Next Opportunity to Give: March 12



The Red Cross Blood Drive on January 16th provided 57 usable units of blood from 45 whole blood donors and 6 power red donors (which provide 2 units each)! It was a cold day, but the friendly red cross staff and our volunteers offering cup cakes, coffee, and hot chocolate made it a warm experience!

The next Grace blood drive is Tuesday March 12, 2024 12 noon - 6 pm. Please consider joining us - appointments are appreciated but we love to work in walk-in's! Questions? contact the Red Cross at 614-593-1058 or Vanessa Stewart at 614-588-2712.



Our First Fruits

You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us.
-2 Cor 9:11

WARM's Value:

We recognize God through our work.
We believe in the dignity of each individual.
We work to help people become self-sufficient.
We strive to be exemplary stewards of resources with a vision for the future.

2023 RECEIPTS FOR WARM

Blessings to all who are making WARM a part of your regular tithes and offerings.

Following is the final 2023 report of donations to WARM.

The final 2023 numbers are complete--not even counting the \$277 collected for the Souper Bowl and the \$765 for Thanksgiving, you gave a total of \$14,201 to WARM in 2023!

- **2023 TOTAL FOOD/HYGIENE=3,582 lb**
- **2023 TOTAL MONETARY= \$14,201**
\$14,201.00 is 42% more than our yearly goal of \$10,000.
- **2023 CROP WALK: \$2,740**
(includes a matching **\$1,000** contribution from the Mission Reserve Fund)
- **2023 THANKSGIVING BAGS=30 BAGS (560 lbs);**
- **THANKSGIVING MONETARY=\$ 1,530**
(includes a matching \$765 contribution from the Mission Reserve Fund, which was matched by \$1,530 from CODREA Financial Services.)

As for 2024, receipts totaled \$1,125 as of January 23, well on the way to meeting and exceeding 2023 gifts. Your generosity is a wonderful example of Grace's concern for others.

-Debbie Yoho, Financial Manager

No need for a separate check when you donate; just indicate on your giving envelope how much you are designating for WARM

Cut out and collect these items for the FEBRUARY First Fruits

Grocery Carts

Any of these items are greatly appreciated. Thank you again for your support of WARM and the Westerville Community

- Dishwasher detergent
- Cooking oil
- Unsweetened cereal
- Mixed veggies
- Canned pineapple
- Salsa
- Juices (fruit/tomato)
- Pasta Noodles (short, preferably)
- Granulated sugar
- Pancake mix
- Hand/soft soap, Shampoo
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
- Diapers
- Paper towels

Thank You!

Place ONLY non-perishable items into grocery carts.
W.A.R.M. cannot accept food past its expiration date. Any fresh produce, baked goods and dairy products take directly to WARM. 150 Heatherdown Dr. Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

If you have questions about Grace's First Fruits Ministry, contact Debbie Yoho, d.yoho@grace43081.org 614-882-3026 (financial)
Karen Bale, bale.karen@gmail.com 614-506-3331 (food/hygiene)

A Closer Look at WARM?



If you would like to take a tour of the WARM (Westerville Area Resource Ministry) facility at 150 Heatherdown Dr, in Westerville, please let Joanne

Figge know and she will arrange a group tour for Grace! 614-207-1061.

Also, WARM does have a few new volunteer positions that need to be filled.

(1) A Donation Intake Person Monday through Friday in the warehouse, or

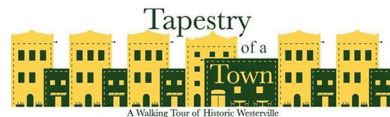
(2) Reception (greeter, phone answering). Training will be available!

If you are interested in learning about more ways to volunteer at this Westerville community non-profit organization, take a look at the WARM website. If you decide to volunteer, there is a volunteer application on the website. www.warm-westerville.org

WARM is offering a new program called Way2Work. They will offer employment advice and teach ways to improve interviewing skills.

Westerville Habitat Partnership

is looking for a few more interesting homes/buildings in Westerville for the July 28 Tapestry of a Town Tour. If you, or someone you know, has a home that would be interesting to share with the public, please let Joanne Figge know at 614-207-1061. Homes don't have to be historic, but should have an interesting story or represent an era of housing in Westerville. At present we have some really fun places to visit that day, but need to "fill out" our tour!



EAT TO SUPPORT Westerville Habitat Partnership



Feb. 16, 2024	Use Promo	City Barbeque
11:00 a.m.	Code	600 S.State St.
to 8:00 p.m.	Fund A	Westerville



Feb. 2



Feb.11



Feb.13

FEBRUARY 2024



Feb. 14



Feb.17



Feb. 29

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Evelyn Boughton, Rella Kehl, Nicole Rowley, Tami Stone, Chris Troutman, Carol Schlea, Ron Kerlee, Diane Boone, Betty Lou Milner, Grace Sima, Rod Rice, Don Slemmer, Jan Perry, John Moffett, Rick Arreguin, Bob Bower, Janice Hardick, Joan Hassler, the families of Tom Rothmann, Clarence Clapham, Jane Menges and Carl Siegrist



ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY

- 3- BARBARA & GEORGE GIRARD 61
- 14- MARY LOU & GARRY BRIGHT 48
- 28- LINDA & ALAN GREEN22
- 29- PAUL & HEIDI GORGAS.....20

MARCH

- 3- NELSON & FAYE MILES62
- 5- JODIE & RICK ARREGUIN 13



BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY

- 3- BARBARA GIRARD
- 3- HEIDI GORGAS
- 3- WILL HARTFELDER JR.
- 3- BRANDON NICKOLI
- 6- CHERYL DOBROKA
- 6- SHIRLEY HODEK
- 6- CHRISTINE KOTIK
- 7-VICKI MORRISON
- 8-JOE MOLENO
- 10-ALLISON KOTIK
- 11-BONNIE SAWYER
- 11-CAROL SCHLEA
- 11-MARY BETH WOLF
- 14-TOM MOSER
- 14-MATTHEW RUSSELL
- 15-KATHY HAEGELE
- 16-EVA BERNHARDT
- 17-COLEEN WOOSTER
- 18-DOROTHY KOLBERG



- 18-LISA STOLL
- 22-WILL STOLL
- 22-JOHN TROUTMAN
- 24-ROBERT ANDREWS JR
- 25-LOIS BERNHARDT
- 25-TRACEY GRAVES
- 26-KENNY ODUM
- 27-JIM MONROE
- 29-BENJAMIN WILSON

MARCH

- 1-EMILY ODUM
- 2-ANNA YOUNG
- 4-JASON WATKINS

DEATHS

M. Jane Hargett Prine Haft Menges

BORN: November 20, 1937
DIED IN CHRIST: December 10, 2023

Clarence Dawson Clapham

BORN: February 14, 1928
DIED IN CHRIST: January 9, 2024

Carl Seigrest

BORN: February 6, 1930
DIED IN CHRIST: November 17, 2023

Thomas (Tom) Rothmann

BORN: August 29, 1967
DIED IN CHRIST: January 27, 2024



LENT

Lent 2024 begins on
Ash Wednesday, February 14 and ends on
Thursday, March 28



Shrove Tuesday-Pancake Supper, February 13th at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. The pancakes will be made by

the men of Grace and the Middle school kids will be helping set up, serve and clean up. The pancake supper is followed by a brief worship service in the sanctuary. at 7:00.

February 14 Ash Wednesday

- 7:30 am: Imposition of Ashes
- 12:15 pm: Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist
- 7:00 pm: Worship



Wednesdays after Ash Wednesday:
Light Meal at 6 PM, Worship at 7 PM

Mid-week Lenten services will take place: February 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20

What Is Lent All About, and Why Is It Important?

Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Lent is a time of preparation, an opportunity to go deeper with God: A time for personal reflection to prepare our hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter.

What Are the Key Days During Lent?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. You may have noticed people with a smudged, black cross on their foreheads. Those are ashes from the Ash Wednesday service. The ashes symbolize our grief for the things we've done wrong and the resulting division of imperfect people from a perfect God.

Maudy Thursday is the day before Good Friday. It commemorates the night before Jesus died, when He shared the Passover meal with His closest friends and followers.

Good Friday is the day Christians remember Jesus' death. The "Good" reflects how Jesus' death was a sacrifice on our behalf so we can receive God's forgiveness for our wrongs or sins.

Easter Sunday is the joyful celebration of Jesus rising from the dead to give us the opportunity of eternal life. While people still die, Jesus made the way for people to have a relationship with God in this life and to spend eternity with Him in heaven.

What Happens During Lent and Why?

The three main things people focus on during Lent are prayer, fasting (abstaining from something to reduce distractions and focus more on God) and giving or charity.

Prayer during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness. It's also about repenting (turning away from our sins) and receiving God's mercy and love.

Fasting, or giving something up, is a very common practice during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that's a regular part of life, like eating dessert or scrolling through Facebook, can be a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. That time can also be replaced with more time connecting with God.

Giving money or doing something good for others is a way to respond to God's grace, generosity and love. For example, some people spend time volunteering or donate money they would normally use to buy something, like their morning coffee.

It's important to note that doing these things can never make us earn or deserve Jesus' sacrifice or a relationship with God. People are flawed and will never be good enough for a perfect God. Only Jesus has the power to rescue us from ourselves.

Jesus sacrificed Himself on Good Friday to bear the punishment for all our wrongdoings and offer us forgiveness. He was raised from the dead on Easter Sunday to give us an opportunity to have a relationship with God for eternity.

Spending time during Lent praying, fasting and giving can make Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter even more meaningful.

Reprint: Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU) <https://www.cru.org/>



Fifth in a series of 11 articles on the Reformation by Pr. Tom Jacobson - Southeastern Ohio Mission District Dean

Luther on the Practice of Indulgences

In Luther's day, the whole church of western Europe was subject to the authority of the pope in Rome. Pope Leo X was the son of a wealthy Italian family, the House of Medici. He was known for his extravagant tastes and gratuitous spending. Pope Leo undertook the task of renovating St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, hiring the best craftsmen and artists to make his dream a reality. But all this required money. Leo decided to use the common practice of "indulgences" as a means of raising funds for the project.

As Luther had experienced during his visit to Rome, indulgences were already a popular institution. Originally, indulgences were certificates issued by the church to recognize significant acts of penance, such as undergoing a pilgrimage or performing a work of humility. Such acts were understood to merit special pardon and favor from God.

In the theology of the time, a distinction was made between the guilt of sin

(which could be forgiven) and the subsequent penalty that sin incurred, which had to be "worked off" by acts of penance. If a person died without having satisfied this requirement, they would have to spend time in a place called "purgatory" to complete their penance and be purged of their impurity. Indulgences were said to reduce this penalty by drawing on the surplus grace earned by the saints of old.

In the service of his ambitions, Pope Leo began offering special papal indulgences throughout the lands of Europe on the basis of cash donations. Not only were these "plenary" indulgences (meaning they had the power to remit all penalties), but these indulgences could also be purchased on behalf of the dead, effectively freeing them from their entire sentence in purgatory. As a result, a great deal of wealth came into the papal coffers.

In German lands, one of the most notorious sellers of these indulgences was a man named Brother John Tetzel. A friar of the Dominican Order, he was described as being not too bright, but good at his job of raising money. A fire-and-brimstone preacher, Tetzel played on people's fear of death and hell. People flocked to buy indulgences that promised to free them from the debt incurred by their sins.

Tetzel's promise to those who worried about loved ones trapped in purgatory was just what they wanted to hear. "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs!"

When Luther heard of what Tetzel was doing in neighboring districts and how the friar was preying on the fears of the poor, he worried about the pastoral implications, especially the bad theology that it conveyed to the masses. Luther thought it necessary to have a public discussion of the practice of indulgences among the local clergy and theologians in Wittenberg.

As Luther had experienced during his visit to Rome, indulgences were already a popular institution.

The legend is that on October 31, 1517 A.D., the Eve of All Saints' Day (November 1), Luther nailed 95 statements of debate to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, which was the place where public notices were posted in the community. This document, known as the "95 Theses," was written in Latin and intended for scholarly debate at the university. But the theses were quickly translated into common German. Because of the new technology of the printing press, Luther's arguments against indulgences—and the pope's lack of wisdom and authority in issuing them—soon began spreading throughout all of Germany.



GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Westerville, Ohio



2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>We envision Grace to be a welcoming, Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries.</p> <p>Worship materials and sermon available online at www.grace43081.org</p>				<p>1</p> <p>1:00pm Art and Environment Mtg</p> <p>6:30pm Dartball v. Epiphany</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30am AA Mtg 9:30am Altar Guild Mtg 10:30am Funeral: Carl Siegrist @ Hills 2:00pm Bowling @ Delaware Lanes</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>
<p>4 4th Sunday After The Epiphany (Pr. David Wendel) 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services 9:30 Youth Choir 9:45am Adult Learning and Sunday School 12:30pm Youth and Family Mtg 2-4pm Christian Assembly of the Word (CAW) 5:30pm High School Pizza and a Movie @ Molly's House</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:00pm Katharine Circle</p>	<p>6</p> <p>3:00pm Care Team Mtg</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:30am Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:15pm Ringers 7:00pm Singers</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00am Piano Tuning</p> <p>6:30pm Dartball @ FBGC2</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30am AA Mtg</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>
<p>11 Transfiguration of Our Lord (Pr. David Wendel) 8:15am Worship Services 9:30 Youth Choir 9:45am Adult Learning and Sunday School 11am Worship Service & Baptism 12:30pm A Joyful Noise! Concert: Violinist Aaron Schwartz 2-4pm Christian Assembly of the Word (CAW)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:00pm Ruth Circle</p>	<p>13 Shrove Tuesday (Pr. David Wendel) 5:30pm Pancake Supper 7:00pm Service 8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>14 Ash Wednesday (Pr. David Wendel) 7:30am Service 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 12:15pm Service</p> <p>6:00pm Ringers 7:00pm Service 8:00pm Singers</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:15pm Supper Club 6:30pm Dartball v. Grace of God 2</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30am AA Mtg 10:00am OMR Planning Mtg</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>
<p>18 1st Sunday in Lent (Pr. David Wendel) 8:15 & 11:00 am Worship Services 9:30 Youth Sunday School 9:45am Adult Learning, H.S. Sunday School, & Confirmation 2-4pm Christian Assembly of the Word (CAW)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>—Office Closed—</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1:00pm Grace Stitchers</p> <p>6:30pm Council Mtg 8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>21 Wednesday In Lent</p> <p>10:30am Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00pm Ringers 6:00pm Supper 7:00pm Service 7:30pm Singers</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30am AA Mtg</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>
<p>25 2nd Sunday in Lent (Pr. David Wendel) 8:15 & 11:00 am Worship Services 9:30 Youth Sunday School 9:45am Adult Learning, H.S. Sunday School, & Confirmation 2-4pm Christian Assembly of the Word (CAW)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30pm Yarn Matters 8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>28 Wednesday In Lent</p> <p>10:30am Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00pm Ringers 6:00pm Supper 7:00pm Service 7:30pm Singers</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00pm Music and Worship Mtg</p>		

Grace

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Email: office@grace43081.org
Website: www.grace43081.org



Place address label here

We are a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

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