

# Grace Family Weekly Message

24 November 2022



**WORSHIP AT GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT.**  
Sunday's Gospel reading is Matthew 24:36-44 (See page 3 for more information)

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!  
HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY WEEKEND!**

## **A BIBLE STUDY ABOUT DANIEL— “SERVANT OF THE LIVING GOD”**

Our most recent Bible Studies considered the kings of Israel and Judah, some good, most of them bad. Their reigns ended in disaster; Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 721 BCE; Babylonia conquered the Southern Kingdom of Judah in 586 BCE and took its leaders into exile; then Persia conquered Babylonia in 539 BCE. This week's study is about Daniel, a leader of God's people during the Babylonian exile, and the early Persian period that followed.

**Daniel 6:18-23** (NKJV) (Persian King Darius lamented sending Daniel into the lion's den)

**<sup>18</sup>Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also, his sleep went from him. <sup>19</sup>Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. <sup>20</sup>And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”**

**<sup>21</sup>Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup>My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.”**

**<sup>23</sup>Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So, Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.**

When the Babylonians, under King Nebuchadnezzar II, conquered Israel's Southern Kingdom of Judah in 586 BCE, their strategy was to weaken their conquered nations by exiling those nations' leaders into captivity in Babylon. They were also wise enough to take advantage of their captives' talents. They taught them the Babylonian language and gave them opportunities to achieve positions of influence within Babylonian culture and governance (See Dan.



A 13<sup>th</sup> century depiction of King Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace.

1:3-5). The book of Daniel is the story of a young Jewish man named Daniel and three fellow Jewish youths, who were given the Babylonian names Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These talented young men were chosen for this program and became trusted advisors to King Nebuchadnezzar II and his successor King Belshazzar. **“(The King) found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom”** (Dan. 1:20).

Daniel chapter 3 introduces us to the memorable call to worship a false god that we hear each year during the Easter Vigil: **“As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.”** Daniel’s colleagues Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to obey the King’s commandment to worship his golden idol, so the furious king had them thrown into **“a blazing furnace.”** They miraculously emerged unharmed; the king relented and praised their unshakable faith in God, and they were promoted to high positions in the Babylonian government in one of the Old Testament’s great stories of deliverance.

Daniel earned the king’s trust because of his wisdom in interpreting the king’s dreams. As a result, the king **“made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men”** (Dan. 2:48). Later, Daniel interpreted a dream that predicted Persia’s conquest of Babylon because Nebuchadnezzar’s son Belshazzar **“did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways.”** That dream interpretation came true when King Cyrus the Great of Persia became the ruler of all of Babylonia and more.

The trust that Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar placed in Daniel carried over to the Persian kings. King Darius made him one of his three chief administrators (Dan. 6:2). However, other jealous officials plotted against Daniel by tricking the king into



Peter Paul Ruben’s epic painting, **Daniel in the Lion’s Den**, ca. 1615.

signing a decree **“that anyone who prays to any god or human being ...except to you...shall be thrown into the lion’s den”** (Dan. 6:7). Daniel, of course, would not stop praying to God, so he was apprehended and thrown into the Lion’s den. The scripture reading (*on previous page*) describes how King Darius lamented signing the decree that threatened to sacrifice his trusted advisor, how God delivered Daniel from death, and how Daniel’s former position was restored.

Daniel subsequently had his own dreams that predicted the end of the Seleucid kingdom (*part of the Greek empire in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BCE*), the coming of the Kingdom of God under the **“Ancient of Days”** (Dan. 7:9, 13), the resurrection of the dead (**“And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake”** Dan. 12:2) and the last judgment (chapter 12). Daniel was a man of wisdom and ability who loyally served two Babylonian kings and two Persian kings while remaining true to the God of Israel.

Bible scholars have generally concluded that Daniel was not an historical person who actually lived through those tumultuous experiences. The Canaanites, in fact, had a similar righteous hero named Dan'el long before the Jews arrived in Israel. But if the Bible's Daniel was not a real person, why was the Book of Daniel written. Almost all scholars agree that the book was written in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE during another time of political repression. Daniel was written to encourage Jews to persevere through the persecutions of Seleucid King Antiochus IV Epiphanes. His soldiers forced them to eat unclean food and worship Greek gods, often under the threat of death. If Daniel and his colleagues had the strength and courage to be faithful to God in the face of a blazing furnace and a den of lions, then later followers of God must follow their examples.

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## WEEKLY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

**WORSHIP ON SUNDAY.** This coming Sunday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, is the First Sunday in Advent. This Sunday is also the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. The Gospel reading is **Matthew 24:36-44**. The liturgical color for this Sunday is blue. SAM Clyde Bame and Church Musician Bobbie Bean will conduct the worship service, with communion, which starts at 10:30 AM.

**CHOOSE HOW YOU WORSHIP.** At Grace, you can worship in a traditional setting in the Sanctuary, or you can participate in worship while remaining in your vehicle and tuning your radio to FM 94.1. Grace's worship services are broadcast on FM 94.1.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING ALL MEMBERS OF THE GRACE FAMILY AND VISITORS TO WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY**

© **PRAYER CONCERNS.** Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

The Family of Joan Dietrich

Sue Fondessy, Max Shiple, Marge Winters, Danny Miller, Joe Grayczyk, Bob Haas, Rosemary Jones, Donald Bench, Steve, Kathy Spangler, Jody Angelone, Mandi Palmer, LaVerne Edwards, Bev Burroughs, Ken Pettit, Carol Jacob, Bethany Collier, Leslee Bundy, Tom Szor, Shelly Sherman, Barbara Harger, Patricia Morral, Karen Southwyck, Carol Morgan, Dustin Schmidt, Chris Marquardt, Stephen Andrew, Dean Crandall, Kelly Troyer, Nadine Crisologos, Cheryl Hoot, Heather DeWitz, members of the Grace family who reside in nursing homes including Jim Flick (Commons of Providence, Sandusky), Donna Foss (Parkcliff), Sandy Cutchall (Genoa), and Joan Dietrich (Genoa), and members of the Grace family and their colleagues who serve in the Armed Forces. If you know of someone to add to the prayer list, please inform Pastor Jaci or the Church Office.

© **ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING LAST WEEK.** 52 persons attended worship last Sunday. Last Sunday's offering total was \$1,717. Offerings need to average \$2,789 per week to meet the 2022 offering budget target. Recent offerings have been down, and Grace is now falling behind in its offering budget goal. **Thank you to all who attend worship and contribute regular offerings.**

UPCOMING ACTIVITES AND EVENTS			
Date	Event	Time	Location
30 November, Wednesday	Advent Soup Supper and Evening Prayer Service	6:00 PM/ 7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary
4 December, Sunday	Board of Property	9:30 AM	Grace
7 December, Wednesday	Advent Soup Supper and Evening Prayer Service	6:00 PM/ 7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary
14 December, Wednesday	Advent Soup Supper and Evening Prayer Service	6:00 PM/ 7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary
15 December, Thursday	Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Schlieverts
19 December, Monday	Red Cross Blood Drive	12:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
21 December, Wednesday	Advent Soup Supper and Evening Prayer Service	6:00 PM/ 7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary
<b>24 December, Saturday</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Worship Service</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
7 January, Saturday	Christmas Decoration Take-Down	11:00 AM	Sanctuary
22 January, Sunday	Congregational Meeting, with Potluck Brunch	11:30 AM	Fellowship Hall
<b>Regular Weekly Events:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday mornings, at 10:30 AM, Worship, with communion (<i>in the Sanctuary</i>)</li> <li>• Tuesday evenings, at 7:00 PM, Choir Practice</li> </ul>			

© **JOAN DIETRICH †**. The Grace church family mourns the death of Joan Dietrich, who passed away on Saturday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of November. Arrangements are pending. The members of Grace extend their condolences and prayers to Joan’s family.

© **ADVENT WORSHIP PLANS**. Plan to attend Grace’s 2022 Advent and Christmas Worship events. The **first Sunday in Advent** this year is the 27<sup>th</sup> of November; the beginning of the new Liturgical Year. This year Grace will have **four Advent Soup Suppers and Evening Prayer services** on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November and the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of December. This year’s **Advent Special Offerings will be contributed to the ELCA’s “A Clinic Visit for a Child” program**. Grace will have its **Christmas Eve Worship Service** on Saturday evening, the 24<sup>th</sup> of December, at 8:00 PM. On Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, Grace’s traditional **Christmas Carol and Scripture Worship Service** will take place during the Sunday worship hour at 10:30 AM. There will be a regular worship service on **Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023**.



© **HANGING OF THE GREENS AT GRACE**. Several members remained after worship this past Sunday for Grace’s annual Hanging of the Greens and the placing

of Christmas decorations to mark the Advent season that begins this coming Sunday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of November.

- ◎ **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS.** The chancel will once again be decorated with poinsettias for Christmas. Each plant comes in a 6½” pot with foil...a single stem with 5-8 blooms. Only RED poinsettias are available this year. All plants come from Bench’s. Each plant costs \$10.00. Please use the order form on page 7 to order poinsettias. Be sure to note any dedication information (*in memory of/in honor of...*). Orders and payment are due in the church office this Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church; note “Poinsettia” on the memo line.
- ◎ **THANK OFFERING BOXES.** Thank offering boxes were returned and dedicated during the worship service last Sunday. If any of you forgot to bring your Thank Offering Box to worship last Sunday, there will be another opportunity to bring your box of coins with you and place them in the basket this coming Sunday.
  - New Thank Offering Boxes for you to fill with loose coins during the upcoming Church Year will be available on Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of December. Placing coins in Thank Offering Boxes can give you many tangible opportunities to say “thank you” for the blessings in your life.
- ◎ **CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR LUTHER HOME OF MERCY RESIDENTS.** Grace members are encouraged to make Christmas special for a resident of Luther Home of Mercy. A few information sheets with names and their wish lists will still be available on the table in the Narthex until November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- ◎ **OPERATION OREO.** Thanksgiving cards were sent to our soldiers this week. Please keep all military personnel in your prayers, but especially: SSG Stephen Simkus and Cadet Julian Sanchez.
  - Anyone wishing to donate to Operation Oreo to help offset the cost of shipping and also the contents of the Goody boxes -- Just mark “Op Oreo” on the memo line of your check.
  - If you have a name to add to our list or if you have any questions about Operation Oreo, please contact Jennifer Marquardt
- ◎ **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICAN WINE TASTING EVENT.** Wreaths Across America is sponsoring a "Wine Tasting Night" on November 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at the Mockingbird on Mill Road at 4408 N. Elliston-Trowbridge Road, Graytown, Ohio. Proceeds will support the cost of wreaths placed in the Ottawa County cemeteries in December for Veterans. RSVP to Shelley (419) 260-7685. For more information check out the flyer on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.
- ◎ **THANKSGIVING WORSHIP INVITATION. St. John’s UCC, 448 Rice Street, Elmore** invites everyone to a Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM. Thanksgiving is an important time to come together in a worship setting to give thanks. We will join together to give thanks to the One who has shared great blessings with us. Everyone is **WELCOME!**

- © **BACKPACKS FOR HUMANS** (<https://backpacknation.space/>). This 501(c)(3) organization serves people in crisis in the Toledo area. Current needs for donated items include men’s and toddler clothes, blankets, and pillows. Please bring donation items to the church and place them in the collection box in the Narthex.
- © **DEACON AND LECTOR SCHEDULE.** Deacons and Lectors scheduled to serve in upcoming worship services are listed in the table.

DATE	DEACONS	LECTORS
27 November	Jennifer & Mark Haar	Mark Haar
4 December	Mary & Mike Schlievert	Mike Schlievert
11 December	Steve Simkus & Steve Blausey	Nancy Bennett
18 December	Jennifer & Mark Haar	Ruth Ann Anderson

- © **ELMORE FOOD PANTRY.** The Grace Food Pantry item for November is 46 oz. cans of tomato juice. Grace hosts the Elmore Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is open on the second Friday of each month, from 9:00 AM until noon. Anyone who wishes to drop off food items at the church may bring them to the church on Sunday or leave them inside the north door during times when the church office is open.

- **ELMORE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER.** Grace is supporting Elmore’s traditional Thanksgiving dinner. The members of Grace are asked to provide 20 pies (preferably apple, cherry, & pumpkin). There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Pies are to be delivered to Woodmore H. S.
- **Volunteers are needed to assist in serving the Thanksgiving Dinner.** Volunteers are needed on Wednesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 AM to noon and on Thanksgiving Day, the 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to Noon or from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Contact Bob Daniel at [bdaniel808@yahoo.com](mailto:bdaniel808@yahoo.com) to sign up.

- © **DRIVE THRU NATIVITY.** The Gibsonburg Area Churches are presenting **The 2022 Drive Thru Nativity** on Saturday and Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. It will be held in the parking lot of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church at 500 S. Brentwood Avenue, Gibsonburg OH. The presentation is FREE. Enjoy the Biblical Christmas Story as it “comes to life” in 9 scenes portrayed by families from the community. Narration is available in sanitized CD or flash drive formats to accommodate all vehicles.
- © **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE.** St. John’s UCC Elmore plans to hold a Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. For many, Christmas is a time of sadness as we remember those days of joy and celebration with loved ones now gone. Come share in this special service Everyone is **WELCOME!**
- © **SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE.** Angel Trees will be placed in the Elmore and Woodville Libraries. If you wish to help out a needy family from our community, please consider choosing a name from the tree and donating for these children.

© **AMAZON SMILE FUNDRAISER.** Grace received \$24.11 this week from Amazon as a result of recent Amazon purchases by Grace members. Operation Oreo and the Piecemakers benefit from this fundraiser. With the Christmas shopping season in full swing remember to go to: [smile.amazon.com/ch34-1219970](http://smile.amazon.com/ch34-1219970) and designate Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Elmore OH to receive 0.5% of your eligible purchases, so the funds come to Grace. The Amazon Smile program has netted \$116.96 for Grace this year.

***Our Prayer: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.***

GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION		
PASTOR	COUNCIL PRESIDENT	CHURCH OFFICE
Pastor Jaci Tiell <a href="mailto:pastorjacitiell@aol.com">pastorjacitiell@aol.com</a> 419-215-8370	Gary Anderson <a href="mailto:dcmgaryanderson@gmail.com">dcmgaryanderson@gmail.com</a> 419-607-3036	Joyce Bruntz <a href="mailto:graceelc@gmail.com">graceelc@gmail.com</a> 419-862-3630

**Grace ELC Weekly Message Distribution.** *Grace Family Weekly Messages* are distributed by email and regular mail to Grace’s members and friends to inform them about Grace’s worship services, church activities and benevolence programs. Anyone who wishes to submit an announcement for the **Message** should contact the Church Office (email to [graceelc@gmail.com](mailto:graceelc@gmail.com); mail to the Church at: 19225 W. Witty Road, Elmore OH 43416). To add someone to the distribution list, send their email or mailing address to the Church Office.

**USE THIS FORM TO ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS—PLEASE ORDER BY NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>**

Name: _____ Phone: _____		
I would like ___ red plants at \$10 each	= \$ _____	
Total = ___ plants;	\$ _____	
In memory of/in honor of _____		