

## Lenten Mid-Week Services.

Lenten evening prayer services will begin Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022. The services will be held in the Sanctuary and in the parking lot tuning your radio to FM 94.1. **Ash Wednesday worship will begin at 7:30pm** and include Imposition of Ashes and Communion. The other Wednesday Evening services will begin with a Soup and Bread Supper at 6:00pm followed by the Lenten Service at 7:00pm. Plan to bring your favorite crock pot of soup to share with a slice of bread, and good fellowship.

A rotation of area Pastors will be leading worship. The theme for this Lenten season is **"Making Change"** The schedule here at Grace is as follows:

March 2	Pastor Jaci
March 9	Pastor Noble
March 16	Pastor Grimm
March 23	Pastor Burkard
March 30	Pastor Musteric
April 6	Pastor O'Brien



All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make, the better.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



## Greetings in the name of Jesus,

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter. Lent is a time of praying that God changes our hearts and turns us toward him. This year we will be doing a Lenten rotation with area clergy joining us each week. This gives us an opportunity to join with the others in the north central conference and participate in our Lenten journeys together.

The theme of our mid-week Lenten worship opportunities will be change. Change is a constant in our lives. All around us there is so much change. Change can be hard when we want to be in control and know what to expect. Some of the change that we encounter is welcomed and yet some of the change we face may not be welcomed at all.

In the time leading up to the crucifixion the disciples experienced a lot of change. They experienced a change of venue as the gates of Jerusalem approached; a change of plans as their long-awaited Messiah was arrested and tried; a change of circumstance as the crowds shouted "Crucify!" We too will be looking at change. Change of season, habit, heart, plans, circumstances and change of mind are all things we will hear about as we journey toward Easter this year.

If you have any pastoral care needs, please let me know. You can reach me by email at [pastorjacitiell@aol.com](mailto:pastorjacitiell@aol.com) or by phone or text at 419-215-8370.

Peace,

*Pastor Jaci Tiell*

*Change my heart oh God  
Make it ever true  
Change my heart oh God  
May I be like You*

# Lent



**Happy Birthday** to everyone celebrating birthdays in **March**:

Lillian Myers	3/2
Branden Hille	3/4
Randy Jacobs	3/4
Eve Jackson	3/8
Mark Tornow	3/10
Tyler Marquardt	3/13
Valerie Marquardt	3/13
Lyle Schlievert	3/14
Judy Zimmerman	3/21
Jennifer Haar	3/24
Becky Kayden	3/25
Donald Bench, Sr.	3/28
Adelyn Simkus	3/28
Timothy Blausey	3/30
Sandra Hammel	3/31
Michael St. John	3/31

**Congratulations** to the following couples celebrating a wedding anniversary this month:

Gene & Judy Michel	3/3
Al & Joanne Domrose	3/26

*Happy Anniversary*

### **SYNOD LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE APPEAL.**

The Northwest Ohio Synod set a year-end goal of raising \$100,000 for Lutheran Disaster Response. Their special appeal was remarkably successful. Bishop Beaudoin now reports that 51 NWOS congregations and 59 individuals contributed \$290,000 to that appeal. Grace was able to share a portion of its year-end surplus by contributing \$4,700 to that LDR appeal.



### **Thank You's...**

**...from Lutheran Disaster Response...** Thank you for your gift of \$4898.11 to our organization. Your generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters here in the US and across the globe. No matter the disaster, no matter the need, your gifts to LDR enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and in the future. This gift was specifically designated to the tornado disaster in the United States. "Jesus was born to reign in us forever. Now you are inviting countless others into his gracious kingdom. Thank you

**...from Christian Resources International...** Thank you to your congregation for the generous gift of \$400.00 and 1501 lbs of Christian literature during 2021. We are proud to say we have now reached 7 continents, 178 countries and given over \$400 million in donated Bibles and Christian Books. It is vital that we continue sharing Bibles and books, that are sitting on your shelves along with the Mission Cry Bible in both Spanish and English. Many that have professed, and confessed Jesus as Lord do not have the Bible or study materials. We together are giving hope, Truth, and opportunity for someone's life to be changed. The ability to have life and have it to the fullest.

**...from Heifer International...** Please accept our sincere appreciation for your group's recent contributions of \$889.00 to Heifer. Your compassion makes a permanent difference in so many lives. To magnify the joy in this giving and gratitude, an additional group of generous donors has matched your donation, doubling the impact of your gift. Thanks to your group, Moms are building businesses and earning steady income to feed their children. Dads are running their own family farms instead of having to find work far way. You are providing nutritious food, education and hope for the next generation. I hope you know how much we, and the families who are touched by your generosity, appreciate all of you. Our work would not be possible without you by our side.

**Board of Witness and Mission** has chosen from ELCA's Good Gifts options; the Special Benevolence Lenten offerings will be used to purchase Honey Bees. Contributions can be made during the Soup Suppers or by using the mid week envelope in your packet. Every \$20.00 collected will purchase a colony of BEES. Honey-bees provide honey to eat and beeswax to transform into handcrafted soaps and candles, allowing a family to start a small business selling their products. As an added bonus, these little bees boost crop growth on the farm by pollinating plants everywhere they go.



### **Deacon and Lector Schedule for March**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Lectors</b>
Wed. Mar 2	Gary Anderson/Randy Jacobs	Rachel Beeler
Sun. Mar 6	Steve Simkus/Steve Blausey	Ruth Anderson
Wed. Mar 9	Mary & Mike Schlievert	Nancy Bennett
Sun. Mar 13	Gene Michel/Alan Wolfe	John Marik
Wed. Mar 16	Deb & Jeff Boos	Mary Lou Kohli
Sun. Mar 20	Bruce King/Pr Wietelmann	Steve Blausey
Wed. Mar 23	Gene Michel/Alan Wolfe	Joan Eckermann
Sun. Mar 27	Jennifer & Mark Haar	Judy Zimmerman
Wed Mar 30	Steve Simkus/Steve Blausey	Rachel Beeler

## The Values We Share...

Worship weekly.  
Invite others to join us.  
Embrace one another.  
Keep on learning.  
Give regularly and generously.  
Be good stewards and willing servants.

## Get in Touch with Grace...

[www.graceelconline.org](http://www.graceelconline.org) is our web site. The church office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 3:00. Joyce is checking phone messages and email everyday. Write us at anytime at [graceelc@gmail.com](mailto:graceelc@gmail.com). Got a prayer request? Email it to the address above or call the office and leave a message. 419-862-3630.

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The **Food Pantry** item for March from Grace is:

Mashed Potatoes 13 oz box



The Pantry will be open on Friday, March 11th from 9:00am until Noon.

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## Pastoral Care...

In the event of a need for pastoral support or care, please contact Pastor Jaci Tiell @ 419-215-8370 or [pastorjaciell@aol.com](mailto:pastorjaciell@aol.com) Thank you.



## Council Minutes from February 10 2022

Grace Lutheran Church Council met via Zoom on February 10, 2022 at 7 pm. President Gary Anderson opened the meeting and offered prayer. The minutes from the January 13, 2022 meeting were approved. The January 2022 financial report was approved. A motion was made by Nancy, second Karen to appoint Mike Schlievert and Linda Jacobs to the Audit Committee.

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor Jaci ~Ash Wednesday will be on March 2. There will be a rotation of area pastors during Lent and the theme will be “Making Change.” ~Celebrated the ten-year anniversary with Salem Grace United Church. ~Will attend a portion of the final service at Martin Luther Church on March 6, the final day of worship. ~Anna Rose Snyder will be baptized on March 20. Anna is the daughter of Cory and Kristen (Jacobs) Snyder, and the baby sister of Jack and Kate.

**Board of Congregational Life** – Reported by Mary Schlievert Old Business ~We finalized the Funeral Meal Protocol A Fellowship Hall Rental Agreement will be attached when the Funeral Meal Protocol is given to any interested parties. . New Business Prayer Partners for 2022 were picked on 1-30-22. ~Updates to the directory are completed and will be shared with Joyce. ~In March we will have Soup Suppers on Wednesdays for Lent, Covid permitting. ~In April we will have a cookie and punch Easter Vigil reception in the Narthex following the Easter Vigil service. ~There will be events for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Pentecost (June 5th). To Do: ~Schedule directory photos ~Set-up for Soup Suppers each Wednesday in Lent Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 15th, 6 pm (before choir)

**Board of Property** – Reported by Steve Blausey Under old business, the water supply situation was discussed again and we passed our February test. That's great news and we are hoping that with these negative tests that we can avoid having to do a well camera test. With the recent snows, we would like to have everyone extend their gratitude to Al Wolfe for his plowing out of the parking lot. We know he did it 3 times last week and we appreciate his dedication. Also, a few weeks ago we had some minor repairs made on the boiler system to keep everything working properly. Under new business, Jazzercise has started using the Fellowship Hall for classes. We have asked the cleaning person to pay more attention to that area now. Also, due to the events surrounding getting our water issue corrected, our parsonage renter was inconvenienced many times, having to have her water shut off and lines flushed. It was decided by this board that no monetary rent will be collected for the month of February. We also discussed a few small projects which pertain to repairing the entryway soffit, repairing the vestibule ceiling, and remodeling the sacristy. Some items were brought up for long term strategic planning and this board will start getting projected costs for these projects.

**Board of Witness and Mission** – Reported by Nancy Pries Plans for Lenten envelopes and financial contributions at soup and bread Wednesday evening meals will go towards purchasing Colonies of Bees at \$20.00 a colony from ELCA Good Gifts. We found a good price on bath towels, so based on the 112 we have already purchased, that is how many Personal Care Kits we will prepare. Inventory has been taken as we have supplies from previous years. To get what we need, we have decided to use three months to see if we can get the remaining supplies we need. We will ask for these supplies: March - 45 nail clippers, April-36 toothbrushes, May92 bath size bars of soap. We are asking for folks to find these items at a good price. Check clearance aisles etc. A collection box will be on the table in the narthex. . We are discussing having someone come to speak to us from the beneficiaries of our benevolence.

**Piecemakers** – Reported by Nancy Pries Ninety quilts are being made. Volunteers are needed to sew around the edges and tie. Old Business Volunteers are needed to attend the 2022 Synod Assembly on June 3-4 at Bowling Green State University. Grace can have three delegates, one of whom must be under the age of 30.

A continued discussion was held about Grace establishing a Capital Reserve Fund. It would be an invested savings fund dedicated to paying for future capital replacement needs of the church and facilities. There was a consensus at the January 13, 2022 meeting to go forward with this concept. As we continue to move forward, an investment professional will be consulted. A motion was made by Steve, second Randy, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was concluded with The Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be held in person on March 17th at 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted, *Karen Hammel*

## AMAZON Fundraiser...

Grace received it's first year of deposits from the Amazon Smile Fundraiser. The amount was \$63.77. This amount was divided between Operation Oreo and the Piecemakers. Thank you to everyone who designated Grace to receive the rebate from your purchase.

### WEEKLY OFFERING 2022

Week 1	\$2,525.00
Week 2	\$1,927.00
Week 3	\$2,367.00
Week 4	\$986.00
Week 5	\$2,982.00
Week 6	\$11,664.00
Week 7	\$910.00
Week 8	\$2,454.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,815.00</b>

**Needed from Offering for 2022**  
\$145,000

**Budget Gap** (\$119,185)

**Weekly Goal** \$2,789

**Avg. Week** \$3,227

*God is a generous giver of gifts that flow like a river from the fountain of life. Bring offerings and tributes with thanks and praise; for the gifts we give are the gifts of God.*

### March Gospel Readings...

March 6 Luke 4: 1-13

March 13 Luke 13: 31-35

March 20 Luke 13: 1-9

March 27 Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

### Lenten Prayer

O God, you desire that all people should eat and be satisfied. As we follow Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross, may our hearts be so transformed that we lose our lives in sharing your bounty with all in need.

Amen

## From Council President...

The month of March in this church year brings us to the Lenten season. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, when we will gather again for this solemn day of prayer and repentance. Grace's Ash Wednesday service will start our journey towards celebrating the Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday and Jesus' victory over sin and death. Pastor Jaci, Musician Bobbie and the Board of Worship are planning a full schedule of Lenten and Holy Week services. Dates, times, and details regarding these services are published in this **Parish Reporter** as well as in **Grace Family Weekly Messages**. We hope all of you plan to participate in as many of these deeply meaningful worship experiences as you can.

We concluded our Congregational Meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January with a slide titled, "**Grace's Ministries Going Forward**." This slide listed seven priorities for Grace's mission and ministries during 2022. For this month's **Council Report**, we would like to recall those priorities and encourage each of you to prayerfully consider how you can support them:

**Continue Grace's Worship and Benevolence Ministries.** The heart and soul of Grace's life as a Christian congregation is gathering for regular worship and making sacrificial giving where we share our abundance with those in need.

**Allocate A Portion of Annual Surpluses to Benevolences; Establish A Capital Reserve Fund.** Grace's financial situation has now become healthy enough for us to seriously consider how Christians should faithfully respond to abundance. The answers Grace is finding involve sharing part of any annual surpluses with additional benevolence causes as well as setting aside the remaining part in a Capital Reserve Fund for future capital repairs.

**Build On Our Cooperative Relationship with Bethlehem Lutheran Church.** Now that we share a Pastor with the Bethlehem congregation, we must be open to new ways to share Christian fellowship and service with our brothers and sisters at Bethlehem.

**Christian Education Program for Children, Youth, And Adults.** Covid effectively ended Grace's traditional education programs. Gathering in person for Bible Study was replaced, temporarily, with printed Bible study lessons in our **Weekly Messages**. We are seeking innovative ways to involve children in educational experiences but have a long way to go.

**Ministry For Home Bound and Shut-In Members.** This has been a priority for Pastor Jaci, but we need to find new ways to involve more of Grace's members in ministering to members who are not able to attend worship services or church activities.

The final two points in this list concerned the need to update our **Constitution and Membership Roster**. These will be big and difficult tasks but the need for addressing them is obvious. As we enter this time of prayer and fasting for Lent 2022, may we seek God's guidance on how all of us can contribute more to supporting Grace's mission and ministries.

Gary Anderson, Council President

## **GOD'S WORK PROJECTS.**

Plans have been made to assemble personal care kits, for Lutheran World Relief, on Sept 11th, **God's Work Our Hands Sunday.** 112 kits will be assembled. Members of the Grace Family are asked to donate the following items needed for these kits. A collection box will be on the table in the narthex where you can place the items you donate.

The collection schedule and items required is:

**March - fingernail clippers - 45 needed**

**April - toothbrushes. - 36 needed**

**May - bars of soap - 92 needed**

***Reminder - banana boxes, with the brown paper inside, are needed to ship quilts, school kits and care kits. 50 additional boxes are still needed.***

### ***Piecemakers Need Help***

If you are starting your spring cleaning and find a surplus of sheets, blankets or anything that can be used in Piecemakers blanket making, consider donating them to this project. The ladies have been working hard but could use some help to sew around the blankets and tie the layers together.



As we were out for Push Week, we spent most of our time on the streets seeking people that God had prepared for us, but His provision came in other unexpected ways too. On the second day of push week, we completely unprompted, received a message from a student on the western border of Slovenia, asking if we could help him study the Bible. The next day we had a video call with this student, Simon, who shared that he felt like he needed a change in the direction of his life. Even though he was a Christian, he wanted to take his relationship with God more seriously, and to find a community to grow in and with. He has an older brother, Andrej, who he had seen grow in his faith, and wanted to see that transformation in his own life.

So the next week Justin and I got in our car, and drove the 90 minutes out to their municipality, Goriška Brda, which borders Italy, and is known for its vineyards so much so that it is called that "Tuscany of Slovenia." We met the two guys, and spent some time getting to know each other and sharing our testimonies. Andrej shared his story of being wrapped up in the ways of the world. Post college, despite being a very talented electrical engineer with a well-paying job, he became involved with the occult and started walking down a scary and dark path spiritually. One day someone gave him a Gideon Bible, and as he started reading it on his own he realized that Jesus was the only way, truth, and life. He cast aside his dark days and started following Jesus, attending a church in a different town on occasion. He quit his engineering job, feeling like he was a workaholic and it was consuming him. He went back to the family business and now is focused on developing the business of their winery. Now he is well respected and known in the region, and was even the mayor of the town!

We walked them through our Bible study method, and shared with them our vision of seeing a group like this in every municipality. They were excited at the prospect, and Andrej even shared how the local Catholic priest had recently told him he should start a bible study group, even though he is protestant! As we left, I was struck by how generous God is, in leading us to two guys in a place so far that, apart from His provision, its impossible for me to think how we could have met them. Since then we have been meeting weekly with them virtually, reading the bible and helping them start a group in their community. They have been talking with and praying for their friends with their own prayer calendars and Simon has even had a few first Bible studies with some of his friends!

With Love, Zina, Jay & Ari Herman



# MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>LENT</h1> <p>Pray + Fast + Give</p>						
		1 7p - Choir	2 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 730p - Lenten Service Imposition of Ashes & communion Sanctuary & Parking lot 	3 5:30p - Board of Property	4	5
6 <b>First Sunday of Lent</b> 10:30am Sanctuary & Parking lot Worship 1:00-3:00 Two Villages Virtual Town Hall Meeting	7	8 4:00p- Board of Mission & Witness 7p - Choir	9 6:00p - Soup Supper 700p - Lenten Service Sanctuary & Parking lot 	10	11 9 - Noon <b>FOOD PANTRY</b>	12 <b>Day Light Savings begins</b>
13 <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> 10:30am Sanctuary & Parking lot Worship 6:30- Boy Scouts	14 6:00p- Annual Meeting Lutheran Ministries of Mercy @ Pinnacle	15 6:00p- Congregational Life 7p - Choir	16 6:00p - Soup Supper 700p - Lenten Service Sanctuary & Parking lot 	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day 7:00p- Council 	18	19
20 <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> 10:30am Sanctuary & Parking lot Worship Baptism - Anna Rose Snyder 6:30pm- Boy Scouts	21	22 7p - Choir	23 6:00p - Soup Supper 700p - Lenten Service Sanctuary & Parking lot 	24	25	26
27 <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> 10:30am Sanctuary & Parking lot Worship Clyde Bame- Preaching 6:30pm- Boy Scouts	28	29 7p - Choir	30 6:00p - Soup Supper 700p - Lenten Service Sanctuary & Parking lot 	31	1	2