

Grace Family Weekly Message

9 March 2023



ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY, THE 12th OF MARCH 2023.

The Gospel reading is John 4:5-42. (See page 3 for more information)

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS THIS SUNDAY—BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD (*Spring Forward*) BEFORE COMING TO CHURCH

THERE IS SUNDAY SCHOOL AND A COFFEE HOUR THIS SUNDAY AT 9:45.

THE THIRD LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND EVENING DEVOTIONAL SERVICE IS ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15TH *Soup Suppers start at 6:00 PM; worship at 7:00 PM*
Pastor Bob Noble will share a message about the “Seven Last Words of Christ.”

A BIBLE STUDY ABOUT LEARNING HOW TO PRAY

In this week’s Bible Study, in our current “The Story of Jesus” series, we will learn about how Jesus instructed his Disciples, and us, to pray.

Matthew 6:7-13 (NIV) See also: Mark 11:25 and Luke 11:1-4

⁷And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.’

Synod Bishop Beaudoin’s recent weekly message (28 Feb) and Pastor Jaci’s message in the March **Parish Reporter** both focused on the Lord’s Prayer. Here’s what they said:

Bishop Beaudoin: This week, during our Year of Story Daily Bible Reading, we will read how Jesus teaches the disciples to pray. The Lord’s Prayer is recorded in Matthew 6 and Luke 11. It is a most beautiful prayer, and for many of us this is one of the first prayers that we heard prayed from the lips of our parents and grandparents.

Pastor Jaci: The Lord’s prayer is special to many people because of the frequency and worship services where we pray it together. The Lord’s Prayer is definitely one that has the ability to draw us back to God and to the communities of faith where we’ve prayed it together. It’s such a powerful reminder of the presence of God among us today!!

The Lord’s Prayer, which was presented by Jesus as a model for how to pray, appears in both Matthew and Luke. The traditional form of the prayer is in Matthew 6;

Luke 11 offers a shorter version of the prayer. Several different English translations based on Matthew's version are in common liturgical use. This Bible Study will look at Jesus' comments when he introduced the prayer. It will then consider each petition in the prayer and use some of Martin Luther's comments about the Lord's Prayer in his *Shorter Catechism* to help us understand how Jesus taught us to pray.

“Babbling like pagans.” Luther's German translation of the Bible used the German word for “*chatter*.” Here, Jesus is advising us not to try to impress God with lots of extra words in our prayers. A prayer is a conversation with God and using prayer to pontificate before others is not likely to sway God's response.

“(God) knows what you need before you ask him.” This should comfort us. We don't have to have a perfectly articulated prayer to get God to respond. We just have to have a sincere desire to approach God with our requests and have faith that God knows what we want and need.

“This is how you should pray.” According to Luke, the Disciples asked Jesus for instruction; **“Lord, teach us to pray”** (Luke 11:1). We should also remember the words our Pastors speak as we prepare to receive communion: *“Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.”*

Our Father in heaven. **“Our”** is plural; we are praying as a community. **“Father”** acknowledges that the Creator God is our ultimate father.

Hallowed be your name. This is our plea for humility—that our prayer will truly respect and give honor to the holiness of God. We are humbled to be talking to God.

Your kingdom come. The theme of Jesus' earthly ministry is his announcement that **“the Kingdom of Heaven is come near”** (Matthew 4:17). With this petition, we join in a plea for the full manifestation of God's kingdom.

Your will be done. Here we join with Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane, **“Yet not as I will, but as you will”** (Matt. 26:39). We acknowledge that God's will must prevail.

On earth as in heaven. Luther says this is our appeal for God to support us on earth in our struggles against all who *“do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come.”*



The Lord's Prayer (Le Pater Noster), by James Tissot.

Give us today our daily bread. Here we ask God to help us secure our daily needs for food, shelter, and security. Luther described “daily bread” as *“everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.”*

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. We acknowledge that we continue to sin and need God's forgiveness and that God expects

us, in our gratitude, to forgive anyone who has sinned against us. Our actions must be modeled after God's mercy.

Lead us not into temptation. Luther emphasized how "God tempts no one." Luther said, "We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature will not lead us into sin."

Deliver us from evil. Some translations read "evil" as the "evil one" or devil. Jesus successfully rejected the devil's temptations during his 40 days in the wilderness. Here, we pray that God will give us the strength to be able to do the same when we are tempted, whether by evil or by the evil one.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen. This doxology, which is not included in the Biblical texts, concludes the prayer with an affirmation of God's power and glory.

WEEKLY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

SUNDAY WORSHIP. This coming Sunday, the 12th of March, is the Third Sunday of Lent. The Gospel reading is John 4:5-42, which is about Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman and his offer of "living water" to this woman. Communion will be served. The liturgical color is purple. Pastor Jaci and Church Musician Bobbie Bean will conduct this service.

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.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN WITH US IN WORSHIPPING GOD
AS WE CONTINUE ON OUR LENTEN JOURNEYS**

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

The Family of Elsie Pavuk, The Family of Jon Empcke

Graham Jacobs (infant son of David & Brielle Jacobs), Marilyn Goeckerman, Laurie Pangle, Tom & Cheryl Hoot, Dean and Marilyn Crandall, Matthew Rolf, Max Shiple, Rosemary Jones, Steve, Jody Angelone, Mandi Palmer, LaVerne Edwards, Bev Burroughs, Carol Jacob, Bethany Collier, Leslee Bundy, Tom Szor, Shelly Sherman, Barbara Harger, Patricia Morral, Karen Southwyck, Dustin Schmidt, Chris Marquardt, Stephen Andrew, Kelly Troyer, Nadine Crisologos, members of the Grace family who reside in nursing homes including Jim Flick (Commons of Providence, Sandusky), Donna Foss (Parkcliff), Sandy Cutchall (Genoa), and Ruth Hammel (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.** 60 people attended worship at Grace on Sunday, the 5th of March. Last Sunday's offering total was \$3,082. In order to fully fund the budget adopted by the congregation in November, weekly offerings need to average \$2,736. **Thank you to all members of the Grace Family who attend worship and contribute regular offerings.**

© **EDUCATION UPDATE:** Sunday morning activities began on Sunday, February 26th with five children who are now attending Grace's Sunday School. Children in grades K-6 meet on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:45 AM. In addition, coffee hour is hosted in the Fellowship Hall, also beginning at 9:45 AM. Please plan to join in these opportunities to support each other in our faith journeys.

© **QUILT DEDICATION.** The Piecemakers have now produced 152 quilts and are nearing the end of this year's sewing project. Ten women participated in this year's eleven Piecemakers' work sessions. In addition, five persons contributed many hours of service by cutting and sewing the blocks to make the quilt tops. Grace's traditional display of the quilts and their dedication will take place during the worship service on the 19th of March. 36 of these quilts will go to Lutheran Social Services, Sparrows' Nest (a woman's shelter) and Cherry Street Mission. The remaining quilts will go to Lutheran World Relief.



The Piecemakers' 2023 quilt production is staged in Grace's lounge in preparation for the quilt dedication on March 19th.

© **2023 LENTEN OFFERINGS.** This year's Lenten Offerings will be dedicated to the ELCA Good Gifts Program for the purchase of water filters. Each \$30.00 contribution buys one ceramic water filter that is capable of purifying water without electricity or chemicals. A water filter is a powerful, reliable way to provide safe water when it's needed most.

© **WORSHIP PLANS FOR LENT.** The third of five Lenten Soup Suppers and Mid-week prayer services on the 8th of March was attended by 18 persons. Pastor Holli Burkhardt's message addressed the message of LOVE that was displayed when Jesus commended his mother and his disciple John to each other's care. Members of the Grace Family are encouraged to participate in these upcoming worship activities:

- 15, 22, 29 March. **Lenten Soup Suppers and Evening Prayer Services,** 6:00/7:00 PM. (Theme: The Seven Last Words of Christ)
- 2 April. **Palm Sunday,** worship, with communion, preceded by a palm procession that will begin in the Narthex, 10:30 AM.
- 6 April. **Maundy Thursday,** worship with communion and the stripping of the altar, 7:30 PM.
- 7 April. **Good Friday,** Service of the Nails, 7:30 PM.
- 9 April, **Easter Sunday,** worship with communion, 10:30 AM.

- 28 May, **Pentecost Sunday**, worship with communion, 10:30 AM. This will be the last Sunday when the Choir is scheduled to sing until September.

UPCOMING ACTIVITES AND EVENTS AT GRACE			
Date	Event	Time	Location
9 March, Thursday	Council Meeting	7:00 PM	Conference Room
12 March, Sunday	Christian Education for Children, K-6	9:45 AM	Sunday School Room
12 March, Sunday	Adult Coffee Hour	9:45 AM	Fellowship Hall
12 March, Sunday	Board of Witness and Mission	9:30 AM	Conference Room
15 March, Wednesday	Lenten Soup Supper & Evening Worship	6:00/7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall Sanctuary
19 March, Sunday	Sunday Worship with Quilt Dedication	10:30 AM	Sanctuary
22 March, Wednesday	Lenten Soup Supper & Evening Worship	6:00/7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall Sanctuary
18 April, Tuesday	Board of Worship	8:00 PM	Grace
Regular Weekly Events:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday mornings, at 10:30 AM, Worship, with communion (<i>in the Sanctuary</i>) • Tuesdays, Piecemakers Quilters, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM • Tuesday evenings, at 7:00 PM, Choir Practice 			

© **OPERATION OREO.** Correction on our new Operation Ore member: 2LT Eli Gerkenmeyer currently resides in Columbus, Mississippi (not Columbus, Ohio). Please keep all military personnel in your prayers, but especially: 2LT Eli Gerkenmeyer, U. S. Air Force; SSG Stephen Simkus, U. S. Army Special Forces, and Cadet Julian Sanchez, U. S. Military Academy.

- Anyone wishing to donate to Operation Ore to help offset the cost of shipping and also the contents of the Goody boxes -- Just mark "Op Ore" 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 Ore, please contact Jennifer Marquardt

© **DEACON AND LECTOR SCHEDULE.** Deacons and Lectors scheduled to serve in upcoming worship services are listed in the table.

DATE	DEACONS	LECTORS
12 March	Gene Michel & Alan Wolfe	Rachel Beeler
19 March	Steve Simkus & Steve Blausey	Mary Lou Kohli
26 March	Jennifer & Mark Haar	Steve Blausey
2 April	Randy Jacobs & Gary Anderson	John Marik

© **BOARD OF WITNESS AND MISSION (WAM).** The WAM's next meeting is on Sunday, March 12th, at 9:30 AM, at the church. Anyone interested in joining this group is welcome. Learn more about where 10% of Grace's offerings are distributed, both locally and to organizations outside of Elmore. If any Grace

members know of organizations that should be considered for Grace's benevolence distributions, please let us know about them.

⊙ **ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS.** The Portage Valley Federation of Lutheran Men is currently working on a project to raise \$10,000 to purchase new medical beds for the Luther Home of Mercy. They have reached almost half of their goal. This is an excellent opportunity for one or two or three of our Thrivent members to organize an event such as a games night, spaghetti dinner/supper, pulled pork sandwich lunch or any other idea that can be fun and help the men with their cause.

Contact John Heminger if you need help setting up your project. Contact Victor Schuerman, vschuer80@gmail.com, 419-287-4452 for details on the project.

⊙ **POCKET QUILTS.** A POCKET QUILT is a way we all can pass a tangible message about God's love to someone else. Keep an extra one and a card in your pocket to share with someone you see who looks troubled or needs a hug. You'll be surprised at the response you will get. Sometimes there will even be tears.

⊙ **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.

⊙ **ELMORE FOOD PANTRY.** The Grace Food Pantry item for March is 13 oz. boxes of mashed potatoes. Grace hosts the Elmore Food Pantry, which is open on the second Friday of each month, from 9:00 AM until noon. Anyone who wants 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.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS THIS SUNDAY—BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD (*Spring Forward*) BEFORE COMING TO CHURCH

Our Prayer: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION		
PASTOR	COUNCIL PRESIDENT	CHURCH OFFICE
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