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*April 2018*

# *Grace Notes*

## *Grace Lutheran Church*

*310 West Lorain Street,*

*Oberlin, OH. 44074*

*440-775-3271*

*www.grace-church-oberlin.org*

*Pastor Josh Moldenhauer*

*Graceoberlinpastor@gmail.com*

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### *From the Pastor's Desk . . .*

This month we start with what is of FIRST importance: celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on **Easter Sunday**, April 1<sup>st</sup>. What is normally a day of practical jokes and gags, this year is transformed into a remembrance of one of the greatest miracles and wonders the world has ever known – with the kind of eternal consequences that are no laughing matter! The very salvation of the world depends on Christ's victory (for us) over sin, death, and the power of the devil. THAT Gospel news (as the Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 15) is of first importance.

What is also of great importance, following right on the tail of Christ's resurrection victory, is how that Gospel impacts our life together. Christ Jesus rose to give you new life. Does that have any impact on how you live? Christ Jesus rose to save us from sin, Death, and Hell – does that affect or guide how we behave as His Church here in Oberlin?

It does and it should...probably more than we realize.

On Easter Sunday this year you'll find in your mailbox at church a handout meant for us to start a discussion about the current Vision and direction of Grace Lutheran Church. This isn't meant to be something degrading ("*we aren't measuring up to what we should be..*"), demoralizing ("*the sky is falling!*"), or defeating ("*there's nothing we can do..*"). Quite the opposite! Christ our Lord is risen from the dead. He's not dead or defeated – and as long as we are in Him, neither are we.

Christ Jesus rose from the dead – and it is His life in us that give us spiritual life and vitality. My hope is for a new Vision and direction at Grace to spur us on towards greater life and vitality in Him. But this doesn't just happen accidentally. Our lives are much too busy for that. Instead it's going to take some planning and effort and purposeful behavior modification. In short, it's going to take Christ to be at work changing us and molding us into His likeness.

Towards that end I'm going to be facilitating a discussion of this Vision hand-out after worship on **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** and **May 6<sup>th</sup>**. I'd like to get your input, ideas, and reactions. You invited to join me, as we make our celebration of Christ's resurrection more than just a once a year activity.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

### March Official Pastoral Acts:

5 sick/shut-in visits

3 private communions

3 pastoral care visits

3 hospital visits

3 leadership meetings

2 circuit visitor activities

A special **thanks** to Terilynn Klement for designing, making, and donating some beautiful Easter cards for the church.

Ever struggle to forgive someone or let go of a past hurt from years ago??? How do you do something as hard as that? Join us this month for the **Sunday morning Adult Bible Class** this month as we begin studying **FORGIVENESS**.

A **BIG thanks** to all those who put in extra effort towards our worship and fellowship times during the Lenten season. From the extra readers and acolytes to the palm crosses and decorating the church – you did a marvelous job.

### April Birthdays

Debbie Burt	4/04
Grace Folley	4/04
Dale Swanzer	4/14
Britney Swanzer	4/21
Jan Koepp	4/25
John Knipper	4/27
Robin Turnbull	4/28

### April Anniversaries

Ray & Beverly Hines	4/16
Ron & Diane Senyak	4/26
John & Jan Kristoff	4/28

\* If we accidentally forgot your birthday or anniversary, please tell Pastor and we'll add it to our list.

## *From the President*

Since my wife and I are heading up the work being done to the Parsonage I thought I'd hijack the President's newsletter to talk about things Buildings and Grounds.

Our main objectives are to protect and improve the value of the Church's asset, and to provide safe, sound and attractive housing for our Pastor and his family.

Things are moving right along as we have identified other areas of concern since the February Voters Meeting update. That isn't too hard to do with a 1950s building.

This is our current list of projects and their status:

1. Furnace replacement – The replacement of the 30 year old furnace is completed.
2. Window replacement – We have identified 9 windows in need of replacement and have awarded the contract. Replacements should be completed in 1 to 2 months.
3. Kitchen remodel – We are trying to remodel the kitchen to make it more practical and safe for a family of 5. We are replacing the original 1950s cabinets, opening up sightlines, and adding new storage space. We are currently evaluating bids for the kitchen cabinet work.
4. Replace carpet – Replace approx. 1250 sq. ft of carpeting in the Parsonage. This has been bid out and the company has been chosen but not awarded the contract yet.

As you can see there is much to do. We will be requesting additional funding of \$20,000 at the May Voters Meeting to complete all this work.

I have been making available the details of this effort at the coffee hour after Sunday services. Please stop by and see me or Jan to see plans, get progress updates and ask questions.

## *Evangelism Report*

Check out the Outreach Bulletin Board in the hallway to see the April Mission of the Month: The two **LUTHERAN SEMINARIES** here in America – Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri and Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. See the bulletin board for a few pictures and articles from these seminaries – including the recently announced FREE tuition coverage for ALL students joining those seminaries to become pastors and deaconesses. A very generous offer toward raising up those who will shepherd God's people in the future.

This month is a great time to highlight the seminaries, because April 24 and 25 is **Call Day** at each of them. Call Day is the exciting time when all the 4<sup>th</sup> year seminarians find out where God is sending them to be pastors. There's definitely a lot of pent up hope, anxiety, and uncertainty on that day! But in the end, God does a wonderful job of placing His shepherds where He wants them to be.

## *Altar Guild News*

Thank you to all who provided lilies to decorate the chancel area for Easter this year: Dale Rider, Fred Feddeck, Glenn and Karen Fridenstine, Tom and Barb Hadaway, Glenn and Robin Turnbull, Carolyn Husted.

Thank you to Jen Moldenhauer for sharing her time and talents in making the palm crosses for Palm Sunday. Also, thanks to the Limperts for making a beautiful walnut candle holder for the Christ Candle.

A new Easter banner and a new fair linen for the altar were purchased with memorial fund money.

Have you ever thought about serving on Altar Guild? If you are interested, let me know! I would be happy to share with you what we do.

Serving in April: Carolyn Husted

~ Robin

## *Women's League News*

The traditional Easter breakfast this year was held on April 1. Home baked goodies were enjoyed by all those attending. See you next year?

Hosting the Community Free Hot Meal on April 21 will be Jan Koepp and Jan Limpert.

Coffee Fellowship for April:

- |    |              |
|----|--------------|
| 1  | EASTER       |
| 8  | Rachel Koch  |
| 15 | Judy Gornek  |
| 22 | Lori Izold   |
| 29 | Lisa LaLonde |


At our LWL meeting in March we discussed the possibility of having either a Mother/Daughter banquet or Father/Son banquet this year. If you would be interested in attending one or the other please let Carolyn Husted, Karen Huston or Karen Fridenstine know. Showing an interest is not a commitment at this time!

*Carolyn Husted*

## Daily Bible Readings

1-Apr - Psalm 105:1-11	1-May - Ezekiel 14-15
2-Apr - Psalm 105:12-45	2-May - Ezekiel 16
3-Apr - Psalm 106	3-May - Ezekiel 17-18
4-Apr - Psalm 107	4-May - Ezekiel 19
5-Apr - Psalm 108	5-May - Ezekiel 20:1-29
6-Apr - Psalm 109	6-May - Ezekiel 20:30-49
7-Apr - Psalm 110	7-May - Ezekiel 21-22
8-Apr - Psalm 111	8-May - Ezekiel 23-24
9-Apr - Zechariah 1-2	9-May - Ezekiel 25-26
10-Apr - Zechariah 3-4	10-May - Ezekiel 27-28
11-Apr - Zechariah 5-6	11-May - Ezekiel 29-30
12-Apr - Zechariah 7-8	12-May - Ezekiel 31-32
13-Apr - Zechariah 9-10	13-May - Ezekiel 33:1-20
14-Apr - Zech. 11:1-12:9	14-May - Ezekiel 33:21-33
15-Apr - Zech. 12:10-13:9	15-May - Ezekiel 34:1-16
16-Apr - Zech. 14	16-May - Ezekiel 34:17-31
17-Apr - Nahum 1	17-May - Ezekiel 35
18-Apr - Nahum 2	18-May - Ezekiel 36:1-15
19-Apr - Nahum 3	19-May - Ezekiel 36:16-38
20-Apr - Zeph. 1	20-May - Ezekiel 37:1-14
21-Apr - Zeph. 2:1-3:7	21-May - Ezekiel 37:15-83
22-Apr - Zeph. 3:8-20	22-May - Ezekiel 38-39
23-Apr - Ezekiel 1-2	23-May - Ezekiel 40
24-Apr - Ezekiel 2-3	24-May - Ezekiel 41-42
25-Apr - Ezekiel 4-5	25-May - Ezekiel 43-44
26-Apr - Ezekiel 6-7	26-May - Ezekiel 45-46
27-Apr - Ezekiel 8-9	27-May - Ezekiel 47
28-Apr - Ezekiel 10	28-May - Ezekiel 48
29-Apr - Ezekiel 11	29-May - Amos 1-2
30-Apr - Ezekiel 12-13	30-May - Amos 3-4
	31-May - Amos 5

# April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Easter Sunday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakfast 8:30 - 9:30 am</li> <li>• Worship 10 am</li> </ul> 	<b>2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elder's Meeting 4 pm</li> <li>• Finance Meeting 7 pm</li> </ul>	<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's Meeting 7 pm</li> </ul>	<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation 7 pm</li> </ul>	<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm</li> </ul>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship 10 am</li> <li>• Adult Bible Class 11:40 am</li> </ul>	<b>9</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elder's Meeting 4 pm</li> <li>• Finance Meeting 7 pm</li> </ul>	<b>10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's Meeting 7 pm</li> </ul>	<b>11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation 7 pm</li> </ul>	<b>12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm</li> </ul>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship 10 am</li> <li>• Adult Bible Class 11:40 am</li> </ul>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm</li> </ul>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation</li> <li>• Free Hot Meal 5 pm</li> </ul>
<b>22</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship 10 am</li> <li>• Grace Church Vision Discussion 11:40 am</li> </ul>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation 7 pm</li> </ul>	<b>26</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's Break-fast at Oberlin Kitchen Diner @ 9:30 am</li> </ul>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship 10 am</li> <li>• Memorial Committee Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>30</b>					

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

- May 6: Grace Church Vision Discussion
- May 20: Voters' Meeting