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January 2019

# Grace Notes

## Grace Lutheran Church

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

The phone call came unexpectedly last month. I should probably preface this by mentioning that December is a busier than normal month at church with regards to phone calls. People call about all kinds of things – including some out-of-towners wondering what time our Christmas services are. So getting a phone call from someone unfamiliar isn't really a big surprise.

But what was surprising about the phone call that morning was that it came from the local newspaper. The Oberlin New-Tribune was going to be running an article on the magic of Christmas – and how to keep that going throughout the year. It's the kind of thing that's mentioned occasionally in Christmas songs on the radio, but how do you really make something like that into a practical reality?!? After a quick hello she jumped right into that question – putting me on the spot for something profound and yet obtainable. By the power of God's Spirit out came the following:

*"I would say by staying connected to Jesus, who is the source of the joy and the magic, if you want to call it that, of the Christmas season. I would suggest reading the Bible, studying it, and getting to know more of who Jesus is and what he has to say. Witness the magic man in action. It's a life-changing thing."*

As I prepare for upcoming Foundations of Faith classes I am reminded that studying God's Word isn't just a trite phrase to answer an unexpected caller; it's also one of the few profound and spiritually powerful ways that God comes into our lives to deliver His grace, power, and direction. God works through His Word – that's reality. It's a truth, a promise, and a reward. It's the goodness of God experienced in real life.

So this New Year let me simply encourage you to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest God's Word.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

## **December Official Pastoral Acts:**

3 sick/shut-in visits  
3 private communions  
3 circuit visitor activities  
2 leadership meetings  
1 hospital visit

<b>Upcoming Sermon Texts</b>	
Jan. 6	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan. 13	Luke 3:15-22
Jan. 20	John 2:1-11
Jan. 27	Luke 4:16-30

Pastor Josh and his family feel doubly blessed. In 2018 the congregation spent time and money to update the parsonage in numerous ways that have improved the quality of life there. Then secondly, for Christmas the congregation blessed them with a large and generous Christmas gift. They are very grateful.

The **Sunday morning Adult Bible Class** will resume meeting after worship on January 20<sup>th</sup> as we begin a new series/look at cremation and what happens when we die.

A special **THANK YOU** to all those who put in extra time and energy during December to decorate the sanctuary, purchase poinsettias, sweep the carpet, clean the bathrooms, set up the outside Nativity scene, updated the outdoor church sign, did a Bible reading on Christmas Eve, played the piano (by memory) on Christmas Eve, and served on altar guild during such a busy month of services. You served the Lord with gladness – and our worship together was enriched by you.

The new ESV **pew Bibles** on the left-hand side of the sanctuary have been donated in memory of Dean and Jean Palmer.

Check out the **new flooring** in the church kitchen and bathrooms – which should be completed sometime this month. Looking forward to it!

### **Volunteers needed:**

- We are in need of someone with some photography ability to take some pictures of our church to put up on our new church website.
- We are in need of someone with a computer to maintain and update the website as needed.
- We are also in need of someone with computer capabilities who could assemble and send out our monthly newsletter.
- We are in need of volunteers to help deliver boxes of food to those in need on the third Tuesday of each month, from roughly 2-3 pm.

If you might be interested please talk to Pastor Josh.

## January Birthdays

Becky Folley	1/07
Ron Mertz	1/08
Isabella Kovach	1/12
Bonnie Abicht	1/19
Tina Brandes	1/19

## January Anniversaries

Chris & Rachael Koch	1/22
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\* If we accidentally forgot your birthday or anniversary, please tell Pastor and we'll add it to our list.

# Lutheran Women's Mission League News

Serving on Coffee hour in January will be:

6 LeeAnne Christner  
13 Bonnie Abicht  
20 Sue Walker  
27 Robin Turnbull

The Mitten Tree provided 36 mittens/gloves, 9 hats and 3 scarves to the Oberlin Community Center. They thank you and we thank you for your contribution.

There will be a LWML meeting coming in February. We will discuss our plans for 2019. Everyone is welcome. The more ideas the better!

Sign-up sheets for donations for monthly oil and bulletins are posted. Also posted is the sign-up sheet for monthly Community Free Hot Meal. There are months waiting for you to add your name!

Our women's monthly Breakfast begins again this month. We will meet Thursday, January 24 at 9:30 am at the Oberlin Diner (Located in downtown Oberlin).

Carolyn

# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 • Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm	4	5
6 • Worship 10 am • Worship meeting	7 • Elder's Meeting 4 pm	8	9	10	11	12
13 • Worship 10 am • Greeter Meeting 11:40 am	14	15 • Foundations of Faith Class 10 am • OCS Food Box Delivery 2 pm • Council Meeting 7pm	16	17 • Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm	18 • Organ Tuning	19 • Organ Tuning • Free Hot Meal 5 pm
20 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	21	22 • Foundations of Faith Class 10 am	23	24 • Women's Breakfast at Oberlin Kitchen 9:30 am	25	26
27 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	28	29 • Foundations of Faith Class 10 am	30	31	<b>Upcoming Important Dates:</b> • Feb.: LWML Meeting	