
Ministry Announcements for the week of March 3, 2019

TODAY IN WORSHIP!

✝ As a gift of grace, members of the prayer team are available for you in the prayer chapel (across the hall from the chapel) following the 9:30 worship.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR IN FELLOWSHIP HALL TODAY!

Join fellow parishioners in-between services in Fellowship Hall for some coffee, some conversation and some refreshments.

A HEART FELT THANK YOU!

It was wonderful to return to Grace to worship with our Grace family. The special greetings Jeanie and I received Sunday have warmed us all this week. Being on my back for most of three months, the many cards, calls and visits from the people of this church have meant more to me than there are words in the English language to express. Thank you does not even begin to cover how warm our hearts and souls have become because of your thoughts and prayers. Special thanks to Pastor Al for seeing we did not miss out on communion during the Christmas season and much gratitude to all the Grace family for your kindness in blessing Jeanie and I and being God's Grace.

BLESSINGS,
Dan

MOVIE NIGHT!

Come join us for family movie night! We will be showing "The Greatest Showman" on March 9th at 6:00 p.m. Snacks and drinks will be provided. ~Debbie Fallon

LENTEN LUNCHEONS

We are in need of soup makers for March 13, 20 and 27, April 3 and 10. Dessert makers for March 13, 20 and 27, April 3 and 10.

If you are able to make soup or dessert, please sign up on the flyer provided on the message board across from the church office.



BLANKET PROJECT UPDATE

Thanks so much to those who donated blankets! Two of the blankets are now sharing the warmth that you have given!

NEEDED—CANDY FOR EASTER EGGS!

The Annual Grace Easter Egg Hunt is being planned for Saturday, April 13, 2019. We are in need of individually wrapped small Easter candy such as Hershey kisses, Hershey chocolate eggs or mini Snickers etc. to stuff 1000 plastic eggs. These eggs will be filled on Friday, April 5th so we need your candy donations before this date. There is a bin in the collection room across from room three for your donations. We are also in need of helpers. If you would be willing to help in any way or have any questions please contact Nancy or Debbie Johnson at 419-885-4963 or Dan Holzscheiter at 419-474-5379. Thank you.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to my church family and Sunday school children, for the number of ways you remembered me on my birthday. What a nice way to be reminded I am a year older! I am blessed! ~Connie Thomas

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Jesus' Life: I Want One Lent 2019

Doing what Jesus does

Come Easter, coming through the days of Lent, what do you want? For me, for my beloved ones, for my discipling co-conspirators, I know Jesus is calling us to (for) the better of new life: lives that forgive; lives that heal; lives that bless; lives that save. On my own, I'm not doing so well . . . but . . . I want a life that looks like Jesus', that does what he does.

But knowing I have a broken carburetor and need a new one isn't the same as knowing how to put a new one in! In the same way, there's a big difference between knowing forgiveness is central to Jesus' message and actually going out and forgiving your dad for what he did to you when you were a kid. Knowing something in your head alone is never what Jesus was after. The truth of Scripture is meant to be worked out in us, not something we hold as an abstract reality.

*We don't want people to understand forgiveness or prayer or mission or justice only intellectually. We want people who can forgive, who can hear and respond to God, who actually know him. We want people who have hearts that break for our world and the people in it and do something about it. We want the kind of people in our communities who resemble the people we see in Scripture. (Mike Breen in *Building a Discipleship Culture*, pg. 30-31)*

To be a doer of what Jesus does . . .

Easy to miss

Early in the Gospels, I think there is something going on that is easy to miss: people are seeking. In John the Baptist, and later in Jesus, people are finding something. They go out to the wilderness, they wonder at teachings with authority, they start doing things that aren't the ways things have been done before (e.g., "working" to bring people to be healed on the Sabbath). I think we're seeing hungry lives seeking to be filled, the religion they grew up in "ain't cutting it" . . . but in this Jesus . . .

Folks weren't finding another god to worship (or proclaiming there was no god to worship), they were finding their God being worshipped. I think in John, and then moreso in Jesus, people found a life living worship of the Most High. Especially in Jesus, (who, it is recorded, did attend synagogue/worship) is something more than religious ritual repetition (cf. "going to church"), there is a relationship with God and that relationship is being both lived into and lived out of: God as both source and purpose. God being worshipped in daily life. Worship, not something to go to or to get something out of; rather, worship being choice, choice to live so that the living itself gives "dignity, glory, distinction, honor, renown . . . reverence" (from the etymology of "worship", found at www.etymonline.com). Through the Jesus-story and then into the life of the early Church (Book of Acts onward), what we have received and are invited into is living a life that worships God in how the life is lived (John 3:16-17; John 10:10; Matthew 11:28-30).

Deep, deep down in what I really, really want

What then for you, your beloved, your discipling co-conspirators? There is something different about this Jesus. He's not like the other rabbis. He's different. His way promises not to weigh life down with burden, but weigh toward life being lighter, nimble with grace. This Lent, let us take a closer look at this Jesus whose life is not like that of other teachers we could choose (and perhaps, have chosen) to follow. What does this Jesus have going on in his life, what is his life doing, that I might want my life to be? This Lent, it seems better for me to give up time and energy (sacrifice) pondering whether my life and its previously chosen course looks like Jesus', that does what his does. And, deep, deep down in what I really, really

want is a life where Jesus may be seen. And, I know I am not alone – **much of what has driven our 2019 Lenten theme toward its final form has been the prayers of our people from the January 2019 semi-annual meeting . . . the prayers for help with discipleship.** These prayers you will also pray, as they will be the core of the Sunday Prayers of the Day through this year's Lenten Quest: *Jesus' Life: I Want One.*

March 6 Ash Wednesday	<i>The Teacher is coming</i>	Luke 1: 41-52 Isaiah 50: 4-9a Psalm 51
March 10 1st Sunday in Lent	<i>A life blessed (faith = relationship)</i>	Luke 3: 1-14 Isaiah 58: 1-3 Psalm 91: 1-13
March 17 2nd Sunday in Lent	<i>A life that heals</i>	Luke 4: 38-44 Isaiah 58: 3-8b Psalm 4
March 24 3rd Sunday in Lent	<i>A life that attracts</i>	Luke 5: 1-11 Isaiah 58: 8-9a Psalm 138
March 31 4th Sunday in Lent	<i>A life that forgives</i>	Luke 7: 36-50 Isaiah 58: 9-12 Psalm 32
April 7 5th Sunday in Lent	<i>A life of courage</i>	Luke 10: 1-12 Isaiah 58: 13-14 Psalm 126
April 14 Palm/Passion Sunday (seeing the Kingdom coming)	<i>A present life</i>	Luke 18: 15-17 Philippian 2: 5-11 Psalm 118: 19-29

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

For the month of March, please consider bringing donations of paper towels and TP for our Personal Needs Pantry. Thank you!

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

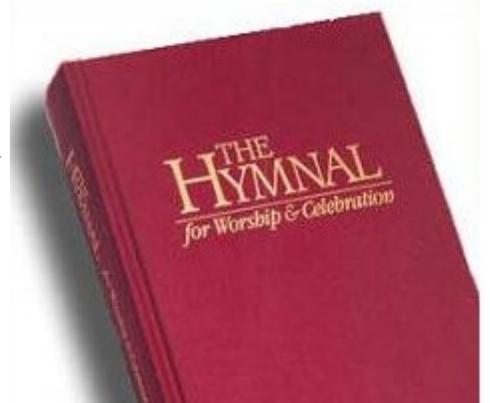
Ruth Circle is requesting donations of jam or jelly for Feed Your Neighbor. Please bring it to the collection room across from room 3 before March 9th. Thank you.

HYMNALS

Once again, we are taking orders for the new ELW hymnal. We need 120 more hymnals to be ordered to reach the 200 mark, before the price increase takes effect at the end of March. The deadline for ordering is MARCH 20 at the present price of \$22.50. The price increases to \$27.50 after March 31. These prices include shipping and handling.

Someone will be in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings to take your orders. You may also turn the order forms into the church office or mail them.

For your convenience, order forms are on the table by the church office. Thank you to all of you who have already placed orders.



**HEALTHY PEOPLE!
HEALTHY PARISH!**

Interfaith Blood Drive at Grace!

The Toledo Interfaith Blood Drive is celebrating 30 Years! This is an awesome celebration as this is the **longest running Interfaith Blood Drive in the United States**. Grace has the great privilege of being the site of the Blood Drive and the Celebration of Life Reception. The Blood Drive will be Saturday June 22 and Sunday June 23. A program to recognize this great mile marker will take place in the Sanctuary Sunday evening featuring musicians, dance ensembles, and speakers representing religious and cultural diversities.

We would like to have volunteers from Grace assist during the blood drive and with food donations. Please watch for sign up information.

Please keep Grace and the Blood Drive in mind to enable you to donate blood in June. Sign up and scheduling information to be out soon.

More information to follow on program/reception but looks to be a wonderful celebration of this significant anniversary.

Gretchen Hiatt is the Blood Drive Chairperson at Grace. Please contact her for more information and watch for postings on the EDU-Board and in the weekly news.

Small Steps!

Lent is fast approaching! Typically, during Lent, we give something up like chocolate, potato chips, smoking etc. and occasionally we give up a bad habit and add a good one which is great.

What if for the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter we all tried to work on being healthier??

So how could we do this? We could all make 8-10 daily changes to live healthy which we could probably make it through Lent, but would probably end up like a New Year's resolution where we would quit the day after Easter? Now be honest as this is probably true.

What if we tried a few Small Steps for Lent?

Small Steps will start on Ash Wednesday. Following Small Steps for Lent and for life can help us be healthier and doing so honors your body as a gift from God.

It will involve small changes you can make daily that will earn you a check mark. Everyone likes check marks!

Anyone can participate. One catch is there is no fibbing allowed especially if you want to make a long-lasting change. You can pick up a Small Steps Diary in Fellowship Hall after service or see Gretchen for a copy before Ash Wednesday.

So, what happens after Lent – turn in Small Steps diary to Gretchen the week after Lent.

You will be on your way to making some great changes in your health and there will be some prizes to those with the most check marks. The prizes will help you continue healthy living. If everyone has all their steps checked, a drawing will be held for the prizes.

Wednesdays of Lent

These upcoming Wednesdays of Lent (beginning March 13), could we learn together about how to repent, about changing life through a biblical way? Is there a process for repentance that we can both use and teach? Think about forming a small group around a table (a circle for continuous deepening) throughout the Wednesdays of Lent. Be of the Kingdom, walk together in Jesus' very first call to repent and believe.

Meal Time

11:30 - 12:00 & 6:00 - 6:30 (Fellowship Hall)

Teaching Time

12:00 - 12:30 & 6:30 - 7:00 (Fellowship Hall)

Worship Time

12:30 - 1:00 & 7:00 - 7:30 (Chapel)

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Have you been reading your Bible? You can pick up your 2019 Daily Bible Reading Program on the table outside the office.

Come on! Enter God's Word with us!

Mar. 03 Deuteronomy 11-13

Mar. 04 Deuteronomy 14-16

Mar. 05 Deuteronomy 17-20

Mar. 06 Deuteronomy 21-23

Mar. 07 Deuteronomy 24-27

Mar. 08 Deuteronomy 28-29

Mar. 09 Deuteronomy 30-31

UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:

Wednesday, March 6	Ash Wednesday The Teacher is coming. Luke 3: 41-52
Coming Soon!!	Coming soon—an opportunity to purchase flowers to decorate church at Easter and to support VBS 2019
Sunday, March 10	Congregational Information—Sharing Day Children will be dismissed for Sunday School.
Wednesday, March 13	Lenten Luncheon (11:30am) Lenten Dinner (6:00pm)
Sunday, May 19	Semi-Annual Meeting
Sunday, August 11	Congregational Information— Sharing Day
Sunday, October 13	Congregational Information—Sharing Day
Year 2020	Grace Lutheran's 120th Anniversary (Sept. 13, 2020)

Sunday, March 3, 2019

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Bob Haaf
Reader:	Wendy McCall
Acolyte:	Callie Moore
Ushers:	Jim Bail, Karen Bail, Greg Schafer, Sheryl Johnson
Fellowship Hosts:	Sue Wagner and Janet Moore
Next week's Fellowship Hosts:	Gretchen Hiatt and Nancy Lockard

2019 LENTEN POTLUCK LUNCHEONS AND SUPPERS

**March 6 – ASH WEDNESDAY – NOON AND 7:00 P.M. WORSHIP SERVICES
WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES
*Both services in the Chapel***

Congregational Luncheons served at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall– Teaching & Worship follow at Noon (Soup, dessert and a beverage will be provided)
Congregational Potluck Suppers served at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall – Service follows at 7:00 p.m.

(If you are able to make soup or a dessert for any one of the noon luncheons, please sign-up on the flyer on the board outside of the church office)

FOOD SUGGESTIONS FOR POTLUCK SUPPERS

Bring a dish to pass – casserole, salad or dessert, beverage provided.

Featured items being provided:

March 13	Tacos and ingredients	Fritz Gooch
March 20	Ham and Cheese Sliders	Barb Wright
March 27	Sloppy Joes	Debby Reeb
April 3	Hot Chicken Sandwiches	Debbie Johnson
April 10	Barbecued Pulled Pork Sandwiches	Marilyn Lohmann

**CLEAN-UP CREWS
(TO BE NOTIFIED)**

March 13 – W. & M. Committee

March 20 – Church Council

March 27 - Women at the Well

April 3– Prayer Group/Property

April 10 – Adult Choir/Bell Choir

EVENING POTLUCK/6:00 p.m.

POTLUCK – bring a dish to pass, coffee/tea provided

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service

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INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN YOU

IF YOUR ARE UNABLE TO BRING A DISH TO THE POTLUCK, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ATTEND ANYWAY. WE ALWAYS HAVE PLENTY OF FOOD.

Isaac's Piggy Bank La alcancia de Isaac



“Mama, we have to do something!” Meet Isaac Schaaf. Isaac is 7 years young. Late last year, Isaac saw an article his mother had printed for a church gathering. The article pictured a little boy (about Isaac's age) and a picture of the aftermath from the earthquakes that devastated



parts of Mexico. After asking a lot of questions, Isaac looked at the picture of the little boy again, and said, “Mama we have to do something!”. He disappeared to his room and returned with \$12 from his piggy bank, wrote the card on the left, saying, “Please send this to Mexico, I bet it will be a big help.”.

His mother sent in his gift by way of the Synod Global Mission Board. At a recent Global Mission Board meeting, this act of generosity was lifted-up, and a spontaneous “match” of his \$12 gift instantly became \$84. God’s math does not “add”, it “multiplies”!

Your Global Mission Board (GMB) is in the process of establishing its third companionship, this time with the Lutheran Church in Mexico. Several of their churches sustained damage in the earthquakes, and a request for help was made.

The GMB is responding to this request by starting a campaign called Isaacs’s Piggy Bank. We are asking members and friends at each of our 166 parishes to consider making a “matching gift” of \$12 to be used to help with the long-term earthquake recovery activities and construction repairs of some of these buildings.



The campaign will begin in February and run through the Lenten Season. In the coming weeks, the synod office and the GMB will provide bulletin inserts, posters, bulletin board flyers, pass outs, ideas on how to engage church members to work together to raise funds and provide easy ways for individuals to make gifts to the cause. Let’s all do our part by “reaching into our own piggy banks” to help the cause.

**For more information, please see or call
Ron Hiatt (419) 944-5177**

Lutherans in Mexico have a vibrant calling

Faith Lutheran Church in Guadalajara, Mexico wholeheartedly celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with a magnificent program put on by the children of the congregation. The play was a detailed retelling of the life of Martin Luther including all the main characters involved in the birth of the reformation. This little boy was Brother Martin! A couple dozen characters participated, and the Sunday School teachers created wonderful sets for the play.

For this congregation, and all 13 congregations of the Lutheran Church in Mexico (Iglesia Luterana en Mexico), there is urgency about Lutheran theology and history. Because our Lutheran friends in Mexico are such a tiny minority in a sea of Roman Catholic and evangelical fundamentalist churches, it is vitally important that they know what they believe, can enunciate it, and can embrace the risk that comes with it. With that clarity comes strength and hope.

In Mexico City there are a few Lutheran communities clustered together. Pastor Angie Trejo Haager is pastor of one of them. Not only does she serve a small Lutheran congregation, but she is also dean of the Augsburg Lutheran Seminary of the Lutheran Church in Mexico within the ecumenical protestant Theological Community of Mexico (Comunidad Teológica de México). This seminary supports theological education for Lutherans throughout Latin America.



Disaster and recovery in the heart of Mexican Lutheranism

Mexico City experienced a powerful earthquake just over a year ago. Casualty counts were unrealistically low because much of the damage and loss of life occurred in poor neighborhoods. All the Lutheran church buildings in Mexico City were damaged. Pastor Angie serves her impoverished congregation receiving no salary. In addition to Word and Sacrament ministry she is working within her small community to support women as they struggle against abuse and a setting that is rife with drugs and prostitution. She also intensely teaches her people about what being a Lutheran is and means.

Another congregation in Mexico City has a pastor who works also as a ballerina and dance instructor, again, working alongside a faith community on the forgotten edges of life and poverty.

There is much we can learn, and much we can share. But it begins with a commitment to be together in accompaniment.

The Mexico City communities are struggling to repair their buildings after the earthquake. They have asked for our assistance. We have initiated an effort to offer that assistance. Your conference dean can share with you more about that particular invitation.

Becoming a companion synod; walking with one another by faith

Our little brother Martin Luther and our sister Pastor Angie are two witnesses to the faith that are confidently working, loving, and ministering in Mexico.

These communities want to be in relationship with us in Northwest Ohio as mutual and equal partners.

We are working toward formalizing a companion relationship. We are not replacing the relationships we already have in Serbia and Tanzania. We are adding to them in ways that will strengthen all the companionships.

We hope your congregation and your conference will commit to our Mexican brothers and sisters as companions in our common walk of faith.

