
Ministry Announcements for the week of March 17, 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 BRENNER HALL TODAY!

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

LENTEN LUNCHEONS

We are in need of soup makers for April 3rd and 10th and one more dessert maker for April 10.

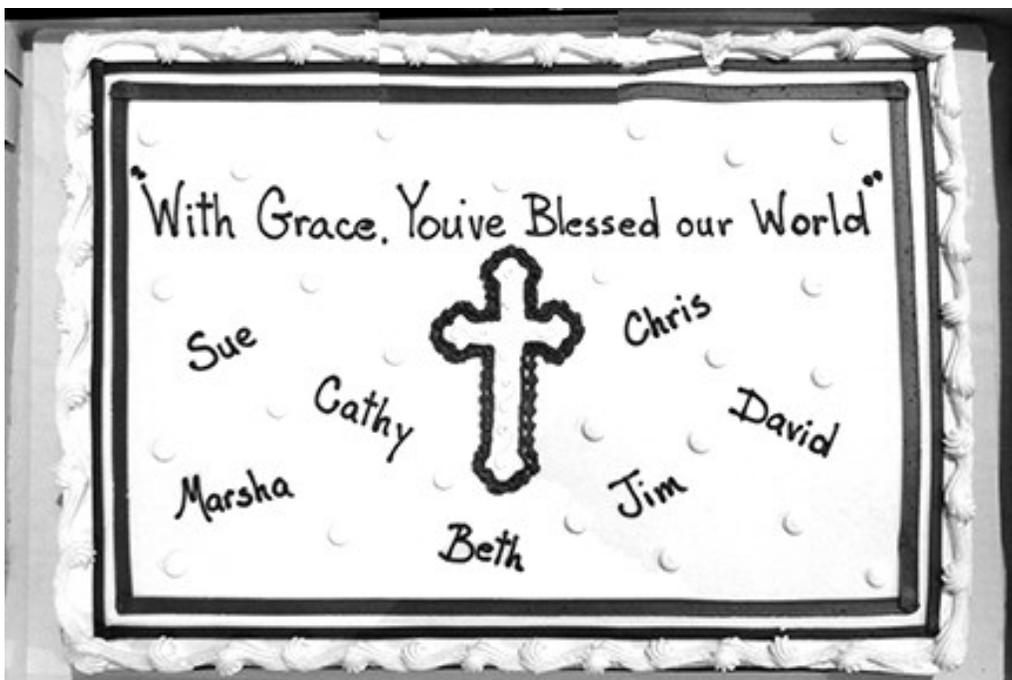
If you are able to make soup or dessert, please sign-up on the message board across from the church office.



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.

*Thanks to Christ's servants,
from the community of Grace.*



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On the web at www.gracelutherantoleado.org
Facebook (Grace Lutheran Church - Toledo)
Twitter (@GLCToledo)

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!

EASTER PLANT SALE

At this time of year, we are looking forward to Easter and Spring and to Spring flowering plants. This year's lily, tulip and daffodil plants are once again a way to contribute toward the cost of the Vacation Bible School program and to decorate the church at Easter. This year's flowering plant sale will be held from March 10—April 7. Order forms will be available for this purpose. Thank you in advance for your generous support of the Vacation Bible School program here at Grace for 2019.

~Grace Lutheran Christian Education Committee

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. 17	Joshua 22-24
Mar. 18	Judges 1-2
Mar. 19	Judges 3-5
Mar. 20	Judges 6-7
Mar. 21	Judges 8-9
Mar. 22	Judges 10-12
Mar. 23	Judges 13-15

POLICY REMINDER: FACILITY USE AND RENTAL

It has been the policy (approved by Grace Council) that all requests to use the church building areas or rooms be in writing. Everyone, whether a member, committee, other church organization, or an outside group must submit a written REQUEST FOR USE OR RENTAL FACILITIES form. Completion of this form is what allows events, meetings, or general use of the building to be put on the Master Calendar. This helps minimize conflicts, allows the church to track and monitor building usage, and helps provide accountability if areas used are not left in good order. Copies of the current BUILDING USE POLICY are given when the form is given, so that there is no question as to what is expected by the people or organizations using our building. This may seem like a new requirement, but this has been the policy since at least 2013, just not consistently followed. Request For Use And Rental Of Facilities, and copies of the Building Use Policy can be obtained by calling or visiting the office, or downloading forms from www.gracelutherantoledo.org Click on the “news” tab.

A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT LENT.....FROM THE GRACE ALTAR GUILD

We are now in Lent – the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday leading up to the celebration of Easter. The 40 days do not include Sundays, as Sundays are “in” Lent, not “of” Lent, and are days of celebrating the resurrection.

So why 40 days? That number appears often in the Bible – Noah’s flood lasted 40 days and 40 nights, Moses spent 40 days on Mt. Sinai with God, and Jesus spent 40 days in the desert tempted by Satan. That period was set centuries ago after the Council of Nicaea. The 40 days of Lent represent a period of fasting for some, time to repent and to meditate, to await the joy that comes with the good news of Christ’s resurrection on Easter.

Look at the cross in the sanctuary...now look down. Do you notice anything different about the altar? We do not place flowers on the altar during Lent. The bare altar serves as a reminder that Christ suffered for us, died for us and for our sins, so we may live and have life eternal. Remember during this season the story we are to share with the world – Christ died for us so we may have life eternal. The bare altar is a small reminder of His great suffering on our behalf. The flowers will return to the altar on Easter and beyond until Advent. The gift Christ gave us is eternal.

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 (Brenner Hall)

Teaching Time

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

Worship Time

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

Christian Men's and Women's Retreats spring 2019

Good News! Via de Cristo (Spanish for *Way of Christ*) is hosting their spring week-end retreats for Men and Women.

The Men's Weekend #64 is being held Thursday evening, May 2 through Sunday afternoon, May 5, 2019.

The Women's Weekend #64 is being held on Thursday evening, May 16 through Sunday afternoon, May 19, 2019.

The retreats center around a series of 14 talks, given by both clergy and regular folks that progressively build on each other. After each talk, there will be small group discussion, followed by a larger group discussion in the evenings. Easter season is the perfect time to recharge and reconnect with God on a retreat.

Each day begins with a short worship service where communion and prayer are shared. There is also time for self-reflection and fellowship. The retreats are designed to show the participants God's Grace in real and tangible ways. It then gives the participants the tools to go back into their environments to be God's Grace.

Via de Cristo is based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. It is a method for Christian Renewal. The focus is not on Via de Cristo itself, but on the local church. It's for all Christians who seek more joy, purpose, and meaning in their lives. It is for those who desire to grow in their faith and learn more about prayer, Bible Study, and God's Grace.



Please contact Pastor Al, or Ron Hiatt for more information.
419.944.5177

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will graduate 108 pastors from its seminaries this Spring. The most recent report from the ELCA's bishops indicates that are 258 first call vacancies in the church, which means 150 will go unfilled. (Note: numbers of the total vacancies in the ELCA (first call and otherwise) were unavailable at press time; although, it is far and beyond 258.)

Region 6, of which the Northwestern Ohio Synod is a part, has a need for 22 first call candidates and received 5 (1 Word and Service candidate/deacon and 4 Word and Sacrament candidates/pastors). The Northwestern Ohio Synod received one of those four pastoral candidates. In the Northwestern Ohio Synod, at least 13 parishes are actively seeking a pastor (first call or otherwise), with others somewhere in a study process

Pray for those souls whom the Holy Spirit is stirring to follow God's call. Do you know someone? Personally encourage them.

2019 LENTEN POTLUCK LUNCHEONS AND SUPPERS

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 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)

EVENING POTLUCK/6:00 p.m.

March 20 – Church Council

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

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service

March 27 - Women at the Well

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

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service

April 3– Prayer Group/Property

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

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service

April 10 – Adult Choir/Bell Choir

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

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 IS HERE!

7 year old Isaac Schaaf took \$12 from his piggy bank to help Lutheran Churches in Mexico repair damages to their church buildings as a result of the earthquakes last fall.

You can help too! Please consider taking \$12 from your piggy bank to “match” Isaac’s. The piggy bank will be making appearances around Grace Church during Lent.

Oink oink, oink oink OINK!

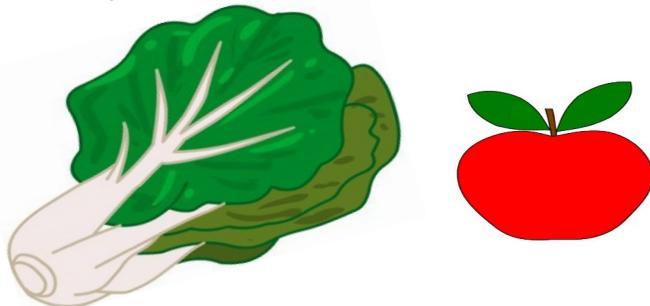
(pig talk for “God Bless YOU!”)

Healthy People, Healthy Parish Small Steps!

Is still Stepping, and it is NEVER too late to join up!

Fruits and Vegetables!

OK, 5 servings a day seems like a lot, but you can mix and match to get to the goal.



-2 cups of leafy vegetables - if you make a salad that comes pretty close to 1-1 ½ cups so you can make up the difference with the addition of carrots, cucumbers, peppers, etc. Even a cup of veggie sticks like carrots, cucumbers and peppers counts.

-1/2 cup cooked veggies - these can be fresh, frozen or canned. Watch canned vegetables as they often have lots of sodium.

-1/2 cup of juice is one serving - increase to 1 cup and you have 2 servings. Try for lower sugar juices if you can.

-Small banana, apple or pear. If you eat a large apple that will count for 2 servings.

-1 cup fruit – think strawberries, or even a cup of grapes or blueberries. Fresh is best but canned works too just try to use the ones with low sugar or natural juice.

Join the SMALL STEPS Group to eat healthier for Lent and life!

Weekly checklists are on table next to EDU-board during Fellowship.



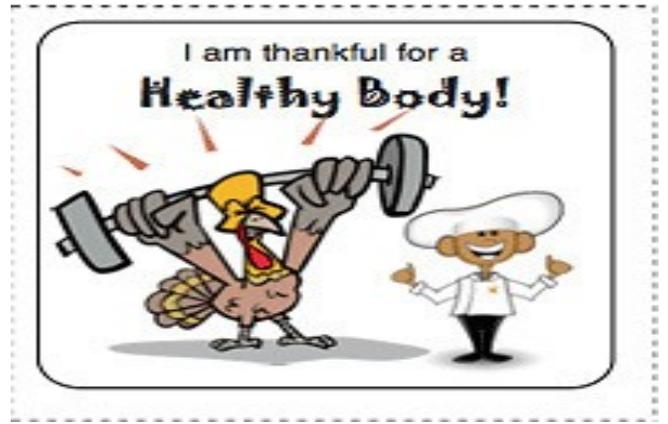
Incredible KID Day 2019!

We all have Incredible Kids of varying ages and even some 4-legged kids! Bring in a picture of your Incredible Kid, or Kids to show on Sunday 3/24. We will put on the Edu-board so there may be a small thumbtack hole. **Celebrate our Incredible Kids!!!**

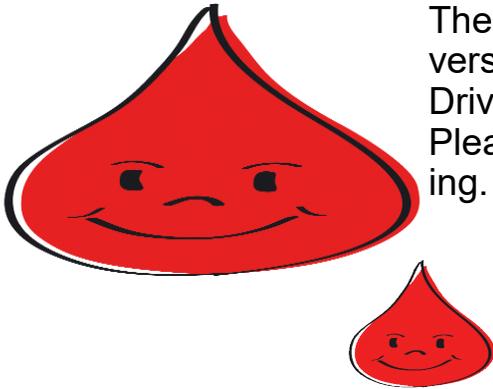


March is Nutrition Month

SO, do you think you know all there is about nutrition - carbohydrates, calories, etc.? Check out the Quiz, crossword puzzle and Sudoku games on the EDU-board to see how much you know. Be prepared to learn more.



Don't Forget the Interfaith Blood Drive – June 22 and 23



The Interfaith Blood Drive will be celebrating their 30th Anniversary as the oldest and largest, ongoing Interfaith Blood Drive in the nation! Please remember these dates when thinking about donating. More information to follow.

UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Wednesday, March 20 | Lenten Luncheon/Teaching/Worship (11:30am)
Lenten Dinner/Teaching/Worship (6:00pm) |
| Wednesday, March 27 | Lenten Luncheon/Teaching/Worship (11:30am)
Lenten Dinner/Teaching/Worship (6:00pm) |
| Wednesday, April 3 | Lenten Luncheon/Teaching/Worship (11:30am)
Lenten Dinner/Teaching/Worship (6:00pm) |
| Wednesday, April 10 | Lenten Luncheon/Teaching/Worship (11:30am)
Lenten Dinner/Teaching/Worship (6:00pm) |
| Saturday, April 13 | Easter Egg Hunt |
| 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 17, 2019

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Assisting Minister: | Cindy Wood |
| Reader: | Bob Haaf |
| Ushers: | Jim Bail, Karen Bail, Greg Schafer, Sue Demars |
| Fellowship Hosts: | Marilyn Lohmann and Beth Lohmann |
| Next week's Fellowship Hosts: | Laura Frost, Paula Cumpian, Carla Wooten |