

Our Purpose?
Bless the World: be God's Grace!

Ministry Announcements for the week of March 31, 2019

TODAY IN WORSHIP!

✠ Healing service—one service at 10:30am.

POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE IS COMING

Spring sprung this week, which means graduations are around the corner.

Once again, our parish has scheduled a Graduate Sunday (last Sunday in April - April 28). Please let the church office know if your son or daughter is graduating this year by Palm Sunday (April 14).

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.

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

Wednesdays of Lent

These upcoming Wednesdays of Lent, 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)

Soup Maker Needed!

We still need one soup maker for the Lenten Luncheon on April 10! Sign up on the board across from the office. Thank you!

4441 Monroe St., Toledo, Ohio 43613
419-474-6403 & 419-474-7726
office@gracelutherantoleado.org | pastoral@gracelutherantoleado.org
On the web at www.gracelutherantoleado.org
Facebook (Grace Lutheran Church - Toledo)
Twitter (@GLCToledo)

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NEVER PROBLEMS; ALWAYS OPPORTUNITIES

Christ is risen! That's who we are - people of the risen Christ, people risen above all fears. In Christ, we are invited to be (to think, speak, and do) living disciples/followers/parts of Christ's body.

How are you living your freedom in this body of Christ known as "Grace"? *Are you, are we*, living our freedom in this body of Christ known as "Grace"? You get to choose. We get to choose.

Attitudes and the feelings that drive them are choices, choices the person or body has made. Attitudes and feelings and choices are not caused from outside of us. Our outer displays of countenance and action are chosen by the bearer thereof.

Within this body, we are working at permission-giving new choices - choices that spring from the New Testament idea that we are all ministers in this body and we are all here to help one another build up the uniqueness of this body as the Holy Spirit has gifted us. So, join in. Add your value. Add your value to administering this home (church office volunteer). Add your value to dreaming (Church Council). Add your value to keeping this home functioning and tidy (Property Committee). Add your value to loving folks who can't afford Personal Needs. Add your value to passing on the faith (Christian Ed, VBS). Add your value to spiritual development and spiritual warfare (Prayer Team). Add your value to tending to the bereaved (funeral meals, Funeral Ministry Team). Add your value to valuing the ill and confined (Visiting Teams). Add your value to a worship team (assisting ministers, bell choir, chancel choir, ushers, musicians). Add your value to worship planning (Worship & Music Committee).

Add your valuable self, your valuable self the Holy Spirit has gifted to help others grow in faith. Take opportunities, make opportunities, bless hurdles, and see no problems . . . see opportunities to create a renewing future of blessing the world: being God's Grace!

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. 31	1 Samuel 15-17
Apr. 01	1 Samuel 18-20
Apr. 02	1 Samuel 21-24
Apr. 03	1 Samuel 25-27
Apr. 04	1 Samuel 28-31
Apr. 05	2 Samuel 1-3
Apr. 06	2 Samuel 4-7



CALLING ALL VENDORS AND CRAFTERS! INSPIRED BY GRACE IS HOSTING A SPRING BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE APRIL 27.

Vendor space starts at \$35 (\$20 for Grace Lutheran Church members) and once again, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the GLC Youth Group. Please call/text or email Jan if you are interested in Vendor space, or to volunteer or donate baked goods or items. Vendor forms are available in room 6 or outside the main office.

419.481.1225

GetInspiredByGrace@gmail.com

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FOLLOW JESUS, FIND JOY! (#GLCgraces)

The end of summer of 2018, I decided to volunteer one day a week in the Grace church office. At the time I had no idea how that would change my life!

I was told to answer the phone before the 4th ring. What? Answer the phone? But what if someone is on the other end? Then what? I had not worked in an office before – well other than an accounting office. That is so different!

December 1, I became lead office volunteer. That meant learning how to create bulletins, the newsletter, answer the phone and about 7003 other things! And it was Advent! I had never used Publisher before and didn't have any idea what a hanging indent was!

While I have an excellent teacher teaching me to use Publisher, it was overwhelming! But I stuck with it and people encouraged me.

After surviving the Christmas season in the office, I started 2019 - daily looking forward to showing up at "work" - Monday through Friday - being with the people of Grace – the people from Sunshine – the many groups that are in and out of our building daily – ministering to all kinds of people. It is a joy to come in.

Now, 4 months have passed since I started working in the office every day. I can tell you, it is not work. It is joy. I didn't know how to do any of the things I am doing now, but I learned. And everyone has been so supportive. And my office volunteers who come in every day – I couldn't do it without them!

From there, God lead me to serve Holy Communion and be part of the funeral care team. And most recently, God lead me to serve as assisting minister! What a humbling and joyous experience that is! And what an honor!

A year ago, there was no way I would have even thought about doing any of the things I now do. I had a huge fear of being in front of people – even in small groups. With Jesus by my side, I am conquering my fears (We are still working on it!) and it has brought great joy. I highly recommend trying new things!

Volunteering and being part of the Grace community has changed my life for the better. I wouldn't trade it for anything! I have learned that it is never too late to learn new things and I find great joy in doing so.

So, thank you, people of Grace, for your patience, for supporting me and for helping me learn. Thank you, Pastor Al. And most of all, thank you, Jesus.

~Cathy Holewinski



Healthy People! Healthy Parish!

To the Small Steps participants – Keep Up the Great Work!!!

Small Steps – Quiet Time

Yikes! This might be harder than drinking 8 cups a water a day?

However, having some quiet time can make a big difference in our day and our long-term health.

There are many different ways to observe Quiet Time, and they can differ between people and even each day – some days one way works better than another. The key is to do something each day.

Prayer and reading the Bible are wonderful ways to spend Quiet Time. Taking even 5 minutes to pray during the day can be very calming and lead us to reflect on our day. You can join Bishop Daniel in the Year of the Scripture in reading the Bible. Information on the program is on the desk outside of the office. What a great way to learn about God and his teachings and reflect on his influence on our lives.

Meditation is another way to quiet ourselves and research has found it to decrease stress and reduce anxiety. Meditation can be practiced in many ways including breathing exercises and even cooking. Being mindful is a part of meditation and means being aware and accepting of the present moment and thoughts, feelings and sensations.

Observing quiet time can also be as simple as taking a slow walk in your neighborhood or a park. Look and listen to what is around you. Whatever the season there are always the sights and sounds of the seasons.

OK this all sounds wonderful but are you stressing over trying to do any of these?

SO, take a deep breath escape to a room with a door and maybe an inside door lock. Take a cup of decaf tea or hot cocoa and a LARGE piece of chocolate - sit, relax and eat and drink slowly. This may only be 10 minutes and might end up in the bathroom sitting on the floor or even in the tub but this can definitely be a boost to your feelings of calm and self-care.



Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer

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A NOTE FROM RUTH—LSS MAILINGS

Hello

Thank you for your faithful service in making the mailings of the LSS Messenger go smoothly. Many of you have been helping for more than 20 years!. I have known many of you for years and look forward to seeing you regularly. You have made the mailings fun and often made suggestions as to how to make it easier. You have shared with others as we prepared the Messenger for mail.. Remember the double labels, the envelopes to insert, the stickers that needed to put on in the right spots? Well, the machines can do all of this now and we'll be identifying other tasks for our volunteers. I understand that a letter will be coming out from the office telling more about the "why" and encouraging you to continue to support the agency as you are able.

Please don't forget the LSS Pantry as these mailings have had a significant impact on the purchase of food 4 times a year. I appreciate the link you've made with LSS and particularly the Food Pantry. If you'd wish to continue to support the LSS Pantry which is now called Feed your Neighbor, please mail your check to

"Feed your Neighbor"
2149 Collingwood,
Toledo, 43620

I'll look forward to seeing you around town. Enjoy the Spring!

Ruth Moeller

HELP WANTED—SCHNEIDER LANDSCAPING

Do you know of a high school or college student who could use a job with flexible hours who wants to grow and learn with us? I teach employees how to work hard and learn valuable lessons on being responsible and doing quality work. These lessons will help employees in their future careers and endeavors.

An ideal candidate will want to work during the entire year. We generally work mid-March through mid-December and also during the winter on snow removal. Hours are flexible so a college student can work half days to allow for school. Some of my employees may work Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays with the other days off for classes. I am open to a flexible schedule so both Schneider Landscaping and the student can succeed.

If you know anyone who is interested, please contact me and mention that you saw this in the Grace Newsletter.

Thank you for any referrals you can send my way.

Sincerely,
Ron Schneider
Owner
419.536.3275

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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.

FOOD SUGGESTIONS FOR POTLUCK SUPPERS

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

Featured items being provided:

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.

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

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.

The Mexico City communities are struggling to repair their buildings after the earthquake. Some of the Lutheran Church buildings in Mexico City are still not open, while funding for repairs is taking place. They have asked for our assistance. We have initiated an effort to offer that assistance. A synod wide campaign called Isaac's Piggy Bank Appeal



has been initiated. Seven year-old Isaac Schaaf read about the earthquake and damage to church buildings, took \$12 from his piggy bank, wrote a note, gave them to his mom asking that it be sent to Mexico to help. When word of this reached the synod Global Mission Board, the \$12 gift spontaneously became \$84 when members "matched" Isaac's gift. Won't you consider going to your piggy bank and making a matching gift of \$12? Let's show Isaac how his act of generosity can be multiplied. Please drop your gift into "Isaac's Piggy Bank" that is on display around Grace Church.

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It is time to begin collecting items for our Operation Christmas Child Project. Our goal this year is to turn in 150 boxes. That means that we need 150 of each of the items we place in each box. This year we will have a chart to show how many of each item have been donated so we know how many more we need.

This project has become a tradition at Grace Lutheran Church. The members of Grace have been in partnership with Operation Christmas Child for many years. Last year, we were able to send 133 boxes to Pilgrim Church which serves as a drop-off site for local donations. In 2018, 10,623,776 shoebox gifts were sent to 112 countries and territories. 4 million shoebox recipients participated in the followup discipleship program and more than 2 million children made decisions for Christ. Every box that we pack is an opportunity for church partners to tell a boy or girl about Jesus.

Here at Grace, each month we ask for a different item. In March we are collecting toothbrushes. In April, wash cloths and/or bar of soap, Ivory preferred. In May a small toy, in June individual pack tissues (pocket or purse size) and/or a comb. In July we are asking for pens, pencils, and/or sharpeners. In September, we need erasers and/or crayons. In October, we need small notebooks, coloring books, pads of paper, small books and in November monetary donations. It costs \$9 to send each box.

You may drop off your donations at any time. There is a box in the room we use for donations with the OCC label. Thankyou to everyone who has supported this opportunity over the years and we hope you will continue to support it this year. If you would like to be a part of this project or you have questions, please see Linda Mason.

UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:

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 31, 2019

Assisting Minister:

Reader:

Ushers:

Fellowship Hosts:

Next week's Fellowship Hosts:

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Beth Cook

Beth Cook

Jim Bail, Karen Bail, Greg Schafer, Sheryl Johnson

No Coffee Hour—Healing Service

Sue Melchert & Karen Weimer