

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



Ministry Announcements for the week of February 14, 2021

"THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED; LISTEN TO HIM!" SUDDENLY WHEN THEY
LOOKED AROUND, THEY SAW NO ONE WITH THEM ANY MORE, BUT ONLY JESUS.
~Mark 9:7-8

Grace Prepares for Easter

In preparation for the celebration of Easter, Grace is offering worship opportunities on Ash Wednesday and every Wednesday during Lent. Although we will come together for worship, to protect everyone from the risk of COVID we will not break bread together for the traditional noon or evening meals prior to our services this year.

On February 17, Ash Wednesday services will be held at 12 noon and 7 p.m. in the sanctuary and in the parking lot. There will be communion and the placing of ashes. After each service those attending in the parking lot may drive to the sidewalk leading to the church office and receive ashes. Ashes will be placed on foreheads using a cotton swab for each person and Pastor Abts will be double masked and will wear a face shield and gloves. Between the hours of 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, people may drive to the sidewalk leading to the church office and receive ashes as well.



Then on Wednesdays, beginning with February 24 and leading up to Easter, Lenten services will be held at 12 noon and 7 p.m. in the sanctuary and in the parking lot. This year's Lenten theme is ***Living our Baptismal Covenant***. Topics include the promises that were made at baptism: **Live** among God's faithful people; **Hear** the word of God and **Share** in the Lord's Supper; **Proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; **Serve** all people following the example of Jesus; **Strive** for justice and peace in all earth.

Let us begin our preparation for Easter!

Quotes of importance ...

We judge ourselves by our intentions, but others judge us mostly by our actions.

Life is like a soap opera. God is the head writer; your story line keeps changing; it's a daily event; and there are even Friday night cliff hangers.
(Susan Knauf)

You can clutch the past so tightly to your chest that it leaves your arms too full to embrace the present.
(Jan Glidewell)

Grace Office hours are
9:00am to Noon - Monday through Friday

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ZOOM Bible Study: 2 Corinthians
What Did Paul Say about Clay Jars?

Starting on February 20 the Saturday ZOOM Bible Study will begin studying the book of 2 Corinthians—Saturdays 3:00-4:00pm.

If Saturday afternoon is not a good time for you, you can access a recording later online. The recording is available for five days after each Bible Study session.

If you want to take part in this Bible Study—or if you want to access the recordings—contact haaf.vgs@gmail.com

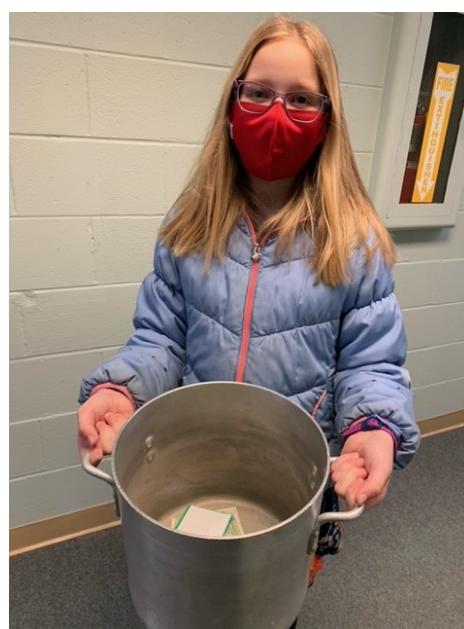


Food for Toledo Weekly Update
by Mary Schneider

Ninety-three (93) pounds of food was collected over the one week period of January 26 through February 1. For the month of January 948 pounds of food was donated to Grace to help feed Toledo's hungry! As always, I will be at the entrance of Brenner Hall for your drive through donations on Mondays from 9 a.m. – noon. Donations can also be dropped off in the entrance to the church office. These donations are included in the weekly totals as well. Thank you to everyone for your donations!



A "Noisy" offering was collected Sunday February 7. It will go to support the youth of Grace and their mission trip this summer and also to help build beds for kids in the area.



Tithes and Offerings for January

Jan 1	\$7937.50
Jan 10	\$5929.43
Jan 17	\$3643.20
Jan 24	\$3337.67
<u>Jan 31</u>	<u>\$2063.34</u>
Jan Total	\$22,911.14

Chocolate!

Who does not like it and as it is Valentines – there is a pretty good chance we will all be eating some? Eating small amounts of chocolate each week may work to lower the risk of some heart conditions. Chocolate contains a considerable number of flavanols -compounds that have been shown to have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. The darker the better chocolate with a cocoa percentage of 70% or greater has more health benefits. Don't forget the emphasis is on small amounts! (Source: Heart)

Our Purpose?
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Thank you to everyone who graciously supported the youth's Soup Supper on "Souper" Bowl Sunday. From donations of soup and desserts, time given to package the soup and bag up the desserts, the excellent handwriting on each label, and the generous donations from our family, friends and supporters, both from church and beyond, we are ever so thankful. The money we raised will help the youth's mission trip this summer and also help to have beds made for children in our area. (Originally, we were going to give to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, but they were not local, so we are giving our donation to Let's Build Beds who build beds for children in our area.)

It was so amazing and wonderful to have our youth and adults working together again. We had youth from Memorial and Providence, as well as our Grace family, working together. We actually sold out of all of our soups! We even made more soup Saturday night after we had packaged soup in the afternoon and realized we might need to make more.

Again, we say, Thank you!



Behind the scenes at Grace...by Gretchen Hiatt

1. WOW! That brown fuzzy bottomed wood chuck really saw his shadow!! The menagerie around the church - mostly squirrels have been climbing up on the window ledges outside all the offices and the Sanctuary looking for some nutrition (i.e., Peanuts) and batting their beautiful eye lashes at us. So, Joe has caved and is putting out extra peanuts, and birdseed for our feathered friends.
2. It is hard to believe we are talking about Lent, but Ash Wednesday will be here next week.
3. It was so great to hear all the noise from the back hall by Brenner this last weekend! The youth group met the people driving up with smiles as they gave them their Super Bowl Game food!!
4. If you have listened to national news, they have been reporting on hunger in the U.S. which has dramatically increased with Covid and the loss of jobs. The news has reported that 1 in 4 children in the U.S. is hungry! Wow, that is pretty significant. That is why our food donations are so important. The Sylvania Family services is providing food for over 300 families a week, Aldersgate has been in the 100's plus and Feed Your Neighbor at Augsburg has also been supplying food. Please don't forget to buy some non - perishable food for Monday's Food Pantry - you can drop off anytime. Some people think because the containers look full by the office that we don't need anymore but there is ALWAYS a need.

Our Purpose?
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5. The smiling faces of the Personal Needs Ministry crew (Nancy, Karlene, Jane, Ann, Susan and Sherry) have continued to provide personal items every Tuesday. Not only is food needed but the essentials like shampoo and toothpaste, etc. are needed by those who have limited resources. Thanks to the crew for this Ministry!
6. Thanks to Jim Bischoff for stepping in while Debby is gone. It was wonderful to hear his uplifting music on such a cold day this last Sunday.
7. The Blanket = Warm Heart Drive continues through February. New or gently used clean blankets are being collected for Tent City and distribution to those in need. A trunk is located across from the office for donations. If you have blankets to be donated and cannot make it to church, please let the office or Gretchen know and arrangements will be made to pick up.
8. Remember: Grace is not the building but the people of Grace stepping up to have Grace thrive and continue on God's mission for us.

What is varying shades of Red and is always needed and often associated with vampires? (Submitted by the Parish Nurse)

Yes, you guessed it - BLOOD !!!!!

Grace will be hosting a Blood Drive on Friday April 23 from 1:00-6:00 PM.

Gretchen will be contacting people but if you already know you would like to donate please call her or email her to set up a time.

The Red Cross is always in need of blood and blood products. They are currently still having difficulty finding sites for Blood Drives due to many sites not being open because of Covid or some changing over to be vaccination sites. So, they are very appreciative that we have been able to be a site.

They have implemented strict guidelines for Covid and with online registration the process moves smoothly.

We are also in need of volunteers and a sign-up sheet is across from the office and/or let Gretchen know if you would be willing to help. Volunteers welcome people, take temperatures, put out snacks, sign up people for the next Blood Drive in June, thank people and send them on with a smile!

The Red Cross staff that has been at Grace has been wonderful and so appreciative.

So, come join the group on Friday April 23! by donating or volunteering or both!

Oops, almost forgot- to all and especially the donors -eat foods high in iron (SPINACH) and Vitamin C!!

Quiz questions:

1. How many Blood Types are there? (DO you know your blood type?)
2. How often can you donate whole blood?
3. Is Power Red a sports drink or is it a type of blood donation?
4. I am 17 and weigh 120 pounds - can I donate blood?

Answer to #1 .Types of Blood - 4 major types

Type O

- ✓ Commonly called Universal
- ✓ Is the one in shortest supply and highest demand. Commonly needed for emergency transfusions.

Type A

Type B

Type AB

Then on top of the 4 major types we throw in the addition of a protein called the Rh factor which can be present or absent and this provides us with an additional 8 types.

A + (have the Rh factor), A – (no Rh Factor), B+,B-,O+,O-,AB+,AB-

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

Answer to #2

You can donate whole blood every 56 days. That is the reason we will be preregistering donors and providing them with a reminder for the end of June Blood Drive - it will be 56 days later.

Answer to #4

To donate whole blood (a typical blood donation) you need to be at least 16 years old and weigh at least 110#.

Answer to # 3 next week!

Fish for the Heart!

There is research that shows eating omega -3 fatty acids from seafood and plants has been linked to a 10% lower risk of fatal heart attacks. Fish is a major source of omega 3s and fatty fish like salmon, trout, anchovies (watch the salt), sardines and herring contain the highest amounts. Good plant sources are walnuts, flaxseed oil, canola oil. (Source: *Tufts University /JAMA*). Watch the paper as there have been some really great prices on salmon.

More on Tithing? Sheesh!

(If you got all you could stand on this topic last Sunday, by all means skip this piece.)

I have a theory that explains why tithing is not a common practice among us. It goes like this:

Once upon a time, Pastors and Youth Group Leaders taught the youth about tithing and giving. When the kids wanted to go on a mission trip or a hayride or support a local charity, they'd have the cash to do it. Other results were awkward. In the Lutheran League (or the Epworth League, or the Methodist Youth Fellowship, or whatever it was), there would be at least one smart aleck kid who would do a rough mental calculation of what the grown-ups would be putting in the offering plate if they were returning a tenth of their income to God, as Jesus tells us to do. The figure would be somewhere around five or six times as much as the congregation's income. I know this because I learned about tithing from my parents, and I was one of those smart-aleck kids.

"Why is this?" the kid would ask. "Don't the grown-ups do what you're telling us to do?"

Who wants to have to deal with THAT question?

We found a solution: Instead of teaching our children about tithing and giving, we teach them about Fund-Raisers. Now, when the kids want to go on a mission trip or a hayride or support a charity, we tell them to wash cars, cook spaghetti, get sponsored for a rock-a-thon, or sell cookie dough. They don't ask that awkward question. And they grow up learning lots of ingenious ways to avoid tithing and giving.

For us Lutherans, there's a bonus: the humor of it. We trace our denomination's beginning to Luther's objection to the selling of Indulgences. Selling Indulgences was a Fund-Raiser! The proceeds went to help pay for the building of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

~Submitted by Pastor Howard

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Easter will soon be here and time for lilies, daffodils, and tulips for Easter Sunday here at Grace. Christian Education Ministry Team will be sponsoring this sale. All plants will be priced at \$10.00 each and can be ordered and purchased by mail, email or through the church office. The deadline is February 28. Thank you for your purchase of plants to decorate the church and to support the Vacation Bible School program at Grace.

LILY & ACCENT PLANT SALE 2021
Sponsored by Vacation Bible School

(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime/Cell Phone _____

Lily plants: Number: _____ ***@ \$10.00 each*** ***Total enclosed \$*** _____

In loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

Accent Plants: Number: _____ ***@ \$10.00 each*** ***Total enclosed \$*** _____

Daffodils _____ ***Tulips*** _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Please use my accent flowers to beautify Grace Flower beds _____

Deadline for orders is February 28, 2021

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Kim Kondalski
Fritz Gooch
Mary Schneider
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Secretary
VP of Admin
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THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE
LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!
PSALM 118:24

