

Grace Messenger

February 2022



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

On the last Sunday of February we will commemorate the “Transfiguration of Our Lord.” It is the last major event before we enter the season of Lent. The Scriptures present this as the final communication from the Father before all of the events we associate with Lent and Easter.

On that day, recorded by all three of the synoptic gospels, Jesus took three of his disciples (Peter, James and John) up on a mountain, where he met with Moses and Elijah. It is referred to as a “transfiguration” because the face and clothing of Jesus became dazzlingly bright (Mark 9:2–13; Matthew 17:1–13; Luke 9:28–36). According to tradition, the event took place on Mount Tabor.

For us, this is a reminder that Jesus is affirmed as the Son of God and the Savior of the World. It also points believers to the truth that Jesus will be resurrected.

Join us for worship on February 27 and celebrate this significant moment in our church calendar.

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Over the last two years we have learned several new words. The most obvious one is "coronavirus." Truthfully, how often did you even use the word "variant" in normal conversation? Here's one more: scarcity.

Some of you who read these words are old enough to remember the rationing that happened while we were fighting wars. Most of us remember the 1980s when gasoline was in short supply. But a trip to the grocery store today, will point out the scarcity that we all are facing these days! I mean, I can't even find my favorite after shave lotion.

Scarcity is not part of the vocabulary within the Kingdom of God. God talks about abundance and plenty and more than enough. One of my favorite verses says "My God will supply all your needs ..." (Philippians 4:19). And in another, it is clear that God is able to do exceedingly and abundant more than I can even imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

In these days of scarcity, let's rejoice in the abundance of God. He has more than enough of whatever you need.

MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

We are pleased to announce that Pastor Emeritus Dan Powell will continue to serve as our Minister of Congregational Care through the end of June 2022. That will allow us, as a congregation, time to search for other ways to support Pastor Brodbeck in this time of transition. So don't be surprised if you receive a call from him, and please know that he and Pastor Tom are in regular communication about the care needs of this congregation.

GRACE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Council is currently accepting nominations for the 2022 Nominating Committee. This team is charged with preparing the ballot for the election of four members to the Congregation Council and at least one member to the Endowment Committee beginning with the 2023 calendar year. If you are interested in serving or wish to nominate someone, please notify Steve Garrett (Council President) or Pastor Thomas Brodbeck.

SAVE THE DATE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 9:15 a.m.

Annual Report available online February 20, 2022.

NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH DISASTER RESPONSE UPDATE



On Dec. 10, 2021 an EF-4 tornado tore through Kentucky for 225 miles, killing 77 people and destroying thousands of homes from Mayfield, KY, to Bremen, KY. Another 20 tornadoes were spawned, impacting the Bowling Green vicinity, a total of 16 Kentucky counties were declared by FEMA.

NALC Disaster Response were on the ground by Monday Dec. 13, delivering six truck loads of emergency relief supplies: to Benton, Madisonville, Princeton and Bowling Green. More trucks are scheduled this week. In addition to the emergency relief supplies, new toys for Christmas were collected and over \$25,000 in new toys will be delivered to the children who have lost everything. Trucks and trailers from Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, North Carolina and Pennsylvania are arriving daily — thank you Jesus. A father and mother of four were in disbelief that our churches would help complete strangers: a family standing in front of an empty lot where their house used to be ... we prayed and we cried and we reassured this family that we as the NALC will be there to help rebuild their home!

After Christmas, repairs and rebuilding will begin. There are four volunteer teams scheduled and to schedule your team, please contact Mary Bates at 740-509-1132.

Thank you for brightening Christmas for so many families. —Mary Bates





CHANCEL/ALTER FLOWERS FOR 2022

If you are interested in placing flowers on the chancel or alter on a certain Sunday in 2022, requests are now being taken. Please contact Darla Kalifoot, 937-399-6257, ext. 102.

WHEN TO BEGIN

You are welcome to begin attending our GriefShare group at any point. Each session is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will be able to pick up any sessions you missed in our next 13-week cycle.

Meeting in the Grace parlor Mondays 6:30-8:30 p.m.

February Topics: Feb. 7—Grief & Relationship

Feb. 14—Why?

Feb. 21-Guilt & Anger

Feb. 28- Complications

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

The policy for how and when Grace worship and/or other ministries might be closed or cancelled due to inclement weather is as follows: Pastor Brodbeck will contact at least two members of the executive committee for consultation and assistance. If they decide to cancel activities or worship, we will use the One Call Now service that allows each of our households to receive a phone call when we cancel services. Television station WHIO channel 7 will also be alerted. A post will be made on the Grace Facebook page, a notification will be sent out on the Grace APP and a response message will be placed on our telephone answering machine system at Grace.

Another option for receiving notification is through the WHIO channel 7 web site, by registering to be notified via e-mail if Grace is closed or worship cancelled. For more information, go to www.whio.com.

OUTREACH CORNER

February is one of our months to help distribute food at St John's Food Pantry. This will take place Wednesday mornings. Please reach out to Judy Fredrich if you have any interest in helping!

937-925-1177.

We will also be collecting food and hygiene items for the month of February for St John's Food Pantry. Most needed hygiene items are toothpaste and bar soap. Most needed food items are: Ramen Noodles, canned peas and green beans, bakery products including bread. Please bring in your items by Feb 27th.



HEARTFELT THANKS

For my Grace family, Thank you for the many birthday cards that I received in celebration of my January birthday. The cards were beautiful, and carried messages full of kind and thoughtful memories of our valued Grace relationships. Gratefully, Jane Kreider

Dear Pastor Tom & everyone at Grace, Thank you so much for the donation of \$1,165.00 and the Walmart gift cards. I hope you have received my report on KY and all that your prayers have accomplished there! These funds will be used to purchase windows for a house where a family of 9 is living. Thank you again, Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator

Dear Grace members, I wanted to thank you all for the e-mails, cards, text messages, telephone calls and prayers while our son Matt was in intensive care. Also thank you for all the cards that were sent to him. He is home now still on oxygen, diagnosed with diabetes and on insulin. Doing fairly well but has a long way to go. Our church and card ministry has been a blessing and I appreciate each and everyone of you. Thank you from the bottom of our heart. God Bless you all, Pam and Steve Garrett

DECEMBER YOUTH BIBLE PRESENTATION



Elijah

Women's Bible Study

ELIJAH - FIRE & FAITH WITH PRICILLA SHIRER

Lead by Susan Russell

Monday evenings 6:00 – 8:00 pm

February 28—April 18, 2022

Join Priscilla Shirer on this 8-session journey through the life and times of the prophet Elijah to discover how the fire on Mount Carmel was forged in the valley of famine. And how the emboldened, fiery faith you desire is being fashioned by God in your life right now.

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



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Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace



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