



Grace Messenger

APRIL 2022

A PREVIEW OF HOLY WEEK AT GRACE

It's time to freshen up your Easter Bonnet. Holy Week is just days away.

Our week begins with Palm Sunday worship service, a time to celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. All in worship will be invited to wave a palm branch during the opening hymn, singing "Hosanna!" to the King of kings. As the service concludes, we will set the stage for the difficult week ahead as Jesus prepares to die on the cross.

On Maundy Thursday we will hold two worship services, at noon and 7 p.m. In a new twist this year, both services will conclude with the solemn ceremony of stripping the altar. The evening service includes the rite of First Communion for several of our young people. These individuals will have completed three weeks of training with Pastor Brodbeck about the meaning and importance of Holy Communion in their own lives and in our corporate life as a congregation. A reception in their honor will be held following the service. The evening service will be live-streamed.

There will be two services on Good Friday as well. This somber service is designed to heighten our longing for the joy of Easter morning. In addition to Pastor Brodbeck's sermon, you will hear the crucifixion story read by members of the congregation. You will also be invited to hammer a nail into the cross as a reminder that Jesus died for you. The evening service will be live-streamed.

But the sadness turns to complete joy just a few hours later as we proclaim "Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!" on Easter morning. We will worship, as usual, at 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., with the latter service live-streamed. Invite your friends and family to join you for that special day!

Two other traditions make their return to our Holy Week calendar. On Saturday, April 16, the Grace Easter Egg Hunt will take place on the church lawn. The fun kicks off at 10 a.m. Our goal is to not only provide a great activity for our own young people but to welcome friends and family too. It's a great way to introduce them to your church before bringing them with you to Easter worship.

We are also happy to announce that the Easter morning breakfast will return between services. Make sure you register for that event so we can plan appropriately.

INTINCTION RETURNS

Several weeks ago, our staff set the goal of abandoning all the plastic cups and returning to our former method of intinction as we celebrate Holy Communion. "It didn't make sense to me to invite people to 'Draw Near' to the cross this Lenten season and then tell them remain seated for the sacrament," said Pastor Tom Brodbeck.

So intinction will officially be back for good on Easter Sunday, assuming the trends of the pandemic continue as they currently are doing. We have re-introduced intinction in our Thursday evening services as a refresher course in what we need to do during that portion of our worship, and it will make its first appearance on Sunday morning during the Palm Sunday service on April 10. "We want to make sure everything flows smoothly on Easter," Pastor Brodbeck added.

He continued "We also know that some of our Grace family will not be quite ready to return to intinction, so we will continue to make the pre-packaged communion sets available to those who still prefer to limit person-to-person contact. We want every person in worship to be blessed in that special moment without having any additional worries that would cloud their full participation."

Don't worry if you don't remember what to do. Pastor Tom will coach us through it, just as he has through the past two years of plastic cups.

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Two years ago at this time, I was working on an Easter Sunday morning sermon that I would eventually deliver to an empty church. Not only was Christ's tomb empty that morning, so was our building. In fact, we had recorded that Easter service three days prior, so like you, I was sitting on the couch in my living room watching worship on You Tube. I never want to do that again.

But I was also amazed then, as I am now, at how God's hand has been seen throughout this amazing journey. At Grace, we had made the decision to begin live-streaming our worship services two months before the pandemic hit. Inspired by the request of a military family stationed in Hawaii, and at the same time recognizing the incredible opportunity to stay connected with our snow birds. We had already ordered the necessary equipment and had it installed, while other area churches were scrambling to find cameras at reasonable prices. Easter 2020 was to have been our first live-streamed service after two weeks of test runs.

In more recent days, we felt led to upgrade the sound and projection capabilities in our Fellowship Hall, only to have most of the equipment already on site when the 10-year-old system we had been using unexpectedly died. Adult Sunday School, like worship in 2020, continued without missing a beat.

There is so much more to tell! All along this journey God has shown us that He is always working, preparing the way for those who faithfully follow Him and listen for His voice. Nothing catches Him by surprise!

Ultimately, Easter is proof of that. The betrayal by Judas, the denials of Peter, the illegal and farcical trials, and the crown of thorns, -- all of it was part of the Father's great plan.

I look forward to spending this Easter Sunday with you. Let's celebrate the empty tomb with a full sanctuary this year! If you can't join in person, please connect via the live-stream. Let's fill the airwaves too.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee is announcing the availability of Endowment Fund Distributions for 2022. These funds are made available to all Ministry Coordinators, Pastors, Staff and Guilds to be used for qualifying ministry opportunities that are not in the current year's operating plan. If you have a ministry opportunity that could happen if you only had some funding for it, give this a try. We awarded over \$13,000 last year, it will be more this year!



CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Grace's recently appointed Call Committee was officially installed at both worship services on Sunday, February 27, and the group will have gathered at least 4 times by the time this article is printed. At its first meeting, committee members elected Eric Leeth and Su-Ann Newport to serve as co-chairs and Stacey Laux to serve as secretary. We are blessed with very strong and faithful leadership!

After coming to understand the various steps in the call process, our committee has focused on reviewing and updating the previous Congregational Profile. Among other things, this document describes the ministries, goals, mission, and vision of our congregation. It also shares the specific gifts that Grace is seeking in its next Associate Pastor.

When the Congregational Profile is completed, it will be submitted to the NALC who will partner with us in publicizing the open position and making the profile available to pastors who might wish to be considered for a call to our congregation. The Call Committee will review and discuss all Pastoral Profiles received and schedule conversations/interviews with all potential candidates. We will eventually vote to narrow this to one candidate who will be proposed to Grace's Council.

The Council will then schedule a visit for this candidate to come to Grace, see our congregation and community, meet with our Council, lead/preach at worship, and be in conversation with Grace members, etc. A special Congregational Meeting will then be held in which our membership will vote to extend a call to this candidate. The candidate will have 30 days to respond in writing.

The members of our committed and closely knit team are Elaine Bucey, Lori Fain, Leah Fraker, Mark Grimes, Stacey Laux, Eric Leeth, Su-Ann Newport, Mike Ray and Matt Rugh. Council President Steve Garrett serves as an ex-officio member of the committee, and Pastor Tom Brodbeck will be available as a valuable resource throughout the call process. Mark Grimes

75
years
Blessed

SAVE THE DATE!

**CELEBRATING GRACE MEMBERS AGE 75 +
WITH A LUNCHEON SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022
FOLLOWING LATE SERVICE**

HEARTFELT THANKS

Dear Grace members, thank you to all my church family and friends for all the beautiful cards, thoughtful wishes, and the many, many prayers on my behalf. Love and miss you all so very much, Barb Fain.

Dear Grace Church family, words cannot convey our thankfulness for all of your kindness and caring during our recent illness and then the passing of Jim. It has been a difficult journey, but thanks to the loving care of so many of you. Through your cards, phone calls, groceries delivered, meals prepared, visits, and most of all prayers, we are able to move on with our lives. Life will never be quite the same again, but we know God will be with us and guide us in the days ahead. A special thank you to Pastor Tom and Pastor Powell for all their support during this very challenging time in our lives. We love our Grace family! Cathy, Amy, and Beth Noyes

Dear Grace Friends, Harry and I would like to thank you for all your prayers, cards, and concerns during my recovery from breast cancer. It has been a source of comfort for me. God's hand is at work at Grace every day and we are thankful to be a part of this special place. Blessings to all of you, Cathy Zernechel

Good evening, friends! I wanted to thank everyone for all of the wonderful cards and heartfelt messages that you sent to my mother in celebration of her 94th birthday. She was amazed by the number of cards and phone calls she received and by all of the people who came up to her after our 10:45 A.M. worship today to personally wish her a "Happy Birthday!" The song that Maxine sang was a great tribute to my mother's musical gifts shared with Grace over the years and added even more to what was already an extra special day. Thanks again to each of you for your much-valued friendship and for sharing in today's celebration! Best wishes for a blessed week ahead! Mark Grimes

STUFF THE TRUCK

Grace will host a "STUFF THE TRUCK" event Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30 from 2 p. m. to 5 p. m., or by appointment. All Grace members are encouraged to see what furniture that they have to donate, and to tell friends and relatives about this great opportunity.

Most of the furniture collected from Grace's last Stuff the Truck event went to the victims of the Tornadoes that ripped through western Kentucky and southwest Illinois. Think about those pieces of home goods that are collecting dust in your closets, attic, basement, garage and rented storage space. **This collection drive is not for clothes, but for household furniture and good clean bedding.**

Call Steven Schumacher (937-624-7074) if you have any questions. There is a limited possibility for "Stuff" pickup. Tax donation forms will be available.

CELEBRATION CORNER



CELEBRATION OF GRACE

This year we are celebrating ALL things at Grace. If you have a birthday, anniversary, promotion, retirement, great report card, special achievement, or whatever you would like us to know about, please send an email to Janet Rice at Janet.Rice@grace-nalc.org. We will share this information with the Grace Community.

CELEBRATE GRACE YOUTH

It is my privilege this month to write a CELEBRATORY article as it relates to one of my ministry responsibilities, Grace Youth. It continues to be an inspiration to me (and I hope all of you as well) to watch our young ladies and gentlemen growing up with a focus on their faith. While other churches are sharing the unfortunate news that their youth have basically disappeared post pandemic, we continue to have a consistent core group enthusiastically participate in a variety of events, on top of regularly attending Sunday School. And something that sets this awesome phenomenon apart, is that our kids are doing this on their own accord. Their parents aren't "forcing" them to go to church or begging them to sign up for retreats and mission trips. They're just DOING IT!

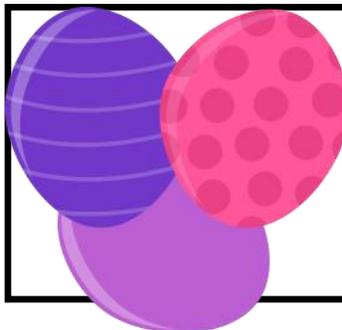
I'm proud of this group, and I learn something from them every time we're together. They have huge hearts for the Lord and service, and at the same time, they are passionate about their school responsibilities, extra curriculars and families. Their futures are bright, and they GET that their faith is going to be a large part of that. That's why all of them will bring friends (some unchurched, some just from smaller churches) to our activities. They understand the message to be shared and they want to do their part to spread that message.

Grace and the communities in which these high schoolers live (we have nine area high schools currently represented in our church) are truly blessed and I'm asking that everyone keep them in their prayers, that God would continue to be not only *present* in their lives, but the *dominant force* moving forward. Matt Rugh

Grace Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 16
10am– 12pm**

Infants thru 4th grade



April Events

Friday, April 1

Saturday, April 2

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, April 3

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages
10:15 am Fellowship
10:45 am Contemporary Worship

Monday, April 4

1:00 pm Essence of Grace rehearsal
6:00 pm Elijah Women's Bible Study
6:30 pm GriefShare

Tuesday, April 5

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed

Wednesday, April 6

4:00 pm SCYM Manpower
7:00 pm 9-12 grade youth group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Thursday, April 7

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
1:00 pm Service Quilter's Guild
1:00 pm Brass group rehearsal
6:00 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm Worship

Friday, April 8

Saturday, April 9

8:00am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, April 10

Palm Sunday
8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages
10:15 am Fellowship
10:45 am Worship
12:15 pm Handchimes rehearsal

Monday, April 11

6:00 pm Elijah Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, April 12

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am Faith Guild
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed
2:00 pm Joy Guild
6:00 pm Executive committee

Wednesday, April 13

9:30 am Hope Guild
1:30 pm Charity Guild
4:00 pm SCYM Manpower
6:00 pm Nominating Committee
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm 9-12 grade youth group

Thursday, April 14

Maundy Thursday

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
12:00 pm Worship
7:00 pm Worship

Friday, April 15

Good Friday

12:00 pm Worship
12-5 pm Grace office closed
7:00 pm Worship

Saturday, April 16

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 17

Easter

8:00 am Worship
9-10:30 am Easter Breakfast
10:45 am Worship

Monday, April 18

Grace office closed

6:00 pm Prayer Support Team

Tuesday, April 19

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed
7:00 pm Grace Council meeting

Wednesday, April 20

4:00 pm SCYM Manpower
7:00 pm 9-12 grade youth group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Thursday, April 21

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
1:00 pm Brass group rehearsal

Friday, April 22

Saturday, April 23

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, April 24

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages
10:15 am Fellowship
10:45 am Worship
12:15 pm Handchimes rehearsal

Monday, April 25

6:00 pm Stephen Ministry C.E.

Tuesday, April 26

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed

Wednesday, April 27

4:00 pm SCYM Manpower
7:00 pm 9-12 grade youth group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Thursday, April 28

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

Friday, April 29

2-5 pm Stuff the Truck Collection

Saturday, April 30

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
2-5 pm Stuff the Truck Collection

I Saw It on the App!

Do you know about the Grace App? By using this simple communication tool, you can stay in touch with all that is happening in your church every moment of the week. Did you miss the Sunday morning announcements? Find them on the app! You will also receive other important pieces of information, including Pastor Tom's weekly "T-Mail," published every Wednesday morning. You will also find links to worship services, Bible Studies and devotional material. You will be able to quickly volunteer for an immediate service need. You can even contribute financially. All this and so much more! Download it today!



Scan the QR code to download the app



OUTREACH CORNER

Breakfast Break Sunday April 24th Betty Douglas from Interfaith Hospitality Network will speak to us about this ministry and how they have adapted during the pandemic and continue their work to end homelessness in Springfield. Come learn more and find out how you can support this ministry.

It's Garden Time again! There are two wonderful opportunities for Grace members to get involved with gardening.

- Our own Grace Garden: Terry Fredrich and Jerry Angst are already busy planning for this year's crops. If you are interested in planting, weeding and garden care, harvest and washing the produce or helping to serve at the Harvest Table on Sunday mornings, please reach out to Terry at 937-215-9400.
- Jefferson Street Oasis Garden (JSO): If you haven't heard or seen the wonderful work Terry Fredrich is doing near downtown Springfield, you must check it out. At JSO Terry and others are teaching Springfield residents, especially those who struggle with having enough food but especially fresh produce, to grow and preserve their own food. At JSO the residents do all the work in their own individual garden plots, but you can come alongside to help teach them, provide mentorship and build relationships while spreading the Gospel and the love of Christ. Call Terry for more information.



GRACE HERB GARDEN: It's hard to believe spring is almost here. My tulips and daffodils are peeking through in my gardens.

Once again, I will be starting work on cleanup, maintaining, and harvesting of the Grace herb gardens. I am starting workdays in April this year on Wednesdays. The times will be determined soon. If you are interested in helping with this project, you may contact me via my phone at 937-925-2347. If you are texting, let me know who you are, as I get a lot of spam calls.

If you are calling, please leave a message for me. I actually check them and return the calls. Also, let me know what time frames are good for you. This will help me in knowing the time I should be setting up for this.

Thank you for prayerfully considering this and God Bless You. Cathy Zernechel

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



www.grace-nalc.org 937.399.6257

Springfield, OH 45504

1801 St. Paris Pike

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace



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