

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Messenger



A reflection for this
year month of
December, 2023

A Letter From The Pastor

Tom Brodbeck

Since this newsletter will reach your mailboxes as the calendar rolls to December, I would like to introduce you to our plans for Advent 2023. I am really excited about what is coming.

Our theme is “Hark!” No doubt you are reminded of that wonderful carol “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing.” It will serve as our theme song for the season, so we will be singing it several times.

While *Hark* is generally translated as “listen up!” *Hark* also means “to look back.” For example, if you ride a horse to work, your behavior *harks* back to the days before cars. Thus *Hark!* is an old-fashioned directive to pay attention and listen carefully to what is being said or done now, but it also means to go back to or remember something from the past. We will use it to call us back to the message of Advent and Christmas, highlighting the words of God (often relayed through “herald angels”) that the Messiah is coming.

Added to our normal Sunday morning services will be three midweek worship services, all on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. (December 7, 14 and 21). These three services are being built around the angelic messages given to Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph.

Sunday mornings will use the standard lectionary texts, with sermons focusing on traditional Advent themes of watch, prepare, testify and serve. In these service seven different families will call us into worship as they light the Advent candle and share words of Scripture.

Christmas Eve (December 24) is a Sunday this year, so we will actually hold three different worship services that day: 9:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. The morning service will be simpler than our typical morning worship. The 6:30 p.m. service focuses on young families. The 9:00 p.m. service features many carols and lots of special music.

We will conclude the month with one worship service only on December 31, also at 9:30 a.m.

Come, Let Us Worship the Newborn King!

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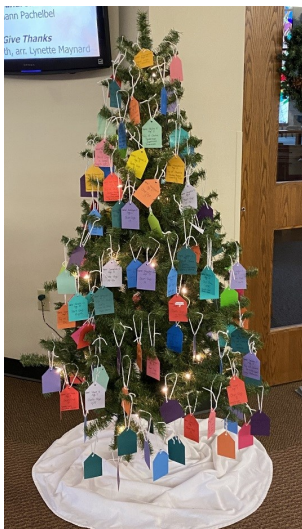
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December Outreach Corner

Laurel Mission Trip: A big thanks to all who supported our team this year for our one week trip to Laurel Mission in SE Kentucky. It was another great trip despite the cold and rain and it was great to have a couple of youth with us too. God's love was shared well with several families in need and much work completed in a short time.



Giving Tree: Our annual Giving Tree is to help our Snowhill families during Christmas time. The tags on the tree reflect actual kids (gender, age, size) and what they've asked for. Please take a tag, buy that item, and deliver it to the church, no later than

December 17th.

Save the Date: January Outreach

Break: Sunday, January 7th during the Sunday school hour Nathan Boggs from Laurel Mission will be here to present to us about his work in SE Kentucky and how you can help support all that they are doing for their local community. Please plan to join us.

Grace Charity Guild Honor Veterans

We could not have done it without you and our Grace family. ❤️

You may recall Jim was to serve on Kairos#19 at LoCI, Nov. 2-5. He was responsible for 90doz.chocolate chip cookies and 10 doz. special cookies.

🍪 A big THANK YOU to all of you for donating a variety of cookies for the that weekend at LoCI. Your generosity and time created 16 doz. of 'special' cookie (oatmeal, sugar, choc chip oatmeal and Rice Krispie treats) and 130 doz.choc. chip cookies in a variety of sizes. Pastor Brodbeck would have loved the cookie odor that permeated our living room! (Jim wanted to taste test all the varieties.) 🍪

I am sure your cookies and prayers blessed the all the inmates, prison staff, Kairos team and the 24 participants during this weekend.

We are so very grateful for your servant hearts and baker spirit. 🍪

Psalm 46:1

God has walked with me through life for many years. God drew me back to church as a young mom. Less than two years after returning to church my parents died three years apart. God knew I would need him. God was enough. God walked closely with me during my first husband's cancer treatment and death at 46. God was enough. God has used these losses to support Steve and I in our GriefShare ministry.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever- present help in trouble.

Andy Schumacher

Financial Stewardship Team

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2023 Outreach Thank you!! I would like to take the opportunity to thank each and every member of our congregation for their generosity over this past calendar year. This past year we hosted Kermit Rowe from Habitat for Humanity, Nicole Patch from Pregnancy Resource Clinic, Aaron Earlywine from CarePortal, and Amy Formella from Lutheran Bible Translators for Breakfast Breaks and shared Sunday School offerings for that quarter with those ministries. We have donated to Habitat's Home for the Holidays, collected items for Clark County Jail Chaplaincy, collected food and birthday cake kits and served at St John's food pantry, served at the Springfield Soup Kitchen, donated to Pregnancy Resource Center Annual Blessings in a Bottle campaign, collected money for Rice and Beans for Haiti, restarted our worship at the Springfield Manor, collected school supplies for Snowhill school, collected supplies for HOPE ministries after school programs, collected boxes for Operation Christmas Child, collected and packed food boxes for Thanksgiving for families from Snowhill school and HOPE Ministries, collected hats, gloves and socks for Springfield City Schools, and collected coats for our Snovember coat drive partnering with Living Water OPC and New Hope churches this year. We look forward to the Giving Tree this month also. We had members help on NALC disaster relief trips and had a Stuff the trunk event for flood buckets and health care kits. We had a team of 10 travel to Laurel Mission to help several families with home projects. It was a generous year thanks to all of your support!

Thank you all again!!! Sandy Thompson, Outreach Coordinator



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.

Offering Envelopes



2024 offering envelopes are available in the narthex to be picked up. If you do not find a set of envelopes with your name, please contact Darla Kalifoot (399-6257 ext. 102). If you use leftover 2023 offering envelopes, please scratch out the offering envelope number, as your 2024 envelope number has changed. For 2023 tax credit, your offering must be received in the Grace office by noon on December 31, 2023, or postmarked December 30, 2023.

Young At Heart

The Young at Heart Ministry (Ages 55 and Up) recently enjoyed an accomplished piano and violin duo at the High Street Methodist Church. It was fantastic! We are going to gather again on Dec 3rd at 4:30 to attend the Cedarville University Christmas Concert. We will carpool from our church. Also, on Dec 7th we are planning attend Joey and Jessica, a vocal/guitarist duo at 3pm at the High Street Methodist Church. After this concert we are hoping to have enough interest to visit a local senior home to sing Christmas carols. Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex. Hope to see you there to bring the true meaning of Christmas and Christmas spirit to others.

In Christ, Roger Bentz

Please send donations for the NALC 2020 Vision campaign to Grace, just put in the memo line it's for the NALC 2020 Vision. You can also donate from the Grace App or Website and choose the NALC 2020 Vision Campaign.

Grace will send any money turned in by December 28th to the NALC to qualify for the matching fund.



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

20/20
VISION

Grace Charity Guild Honor Veterans

Members of the Grace Charity Guild wanted to do something this year to honor our member veterans. Their ministry is to make pillows for hospice patients and others who can benefit from them. This year they worked hard to make specific patriotic pillows for our veterans, and on Sunday morning, November 12, at both services, we invited them to please take one of the 86 pillows that were available. By the end of the second service, they had all been taken. This was our way of thanking them for their service!



Grace Member Receives Award

Grace Member, Dan Shroyer, was contacted by an aide to our State Representative to come to the Ohio State House in Columbus to receive an award. On Wednesday, November 15th, Dan was awarded the Ohio House of Representatives Resolution, presented by State Representative, Bernard Willis, who represents our district, for his years in military service and for winning a gold and silver medal in the 85-90 age bracket at the 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Sports games. When he was asked to stand and be recognized, the entire chamber attendees started clapping and gave him a standing ovation!!! A very humbling experience



Meals on Call

By Deb O'Neal

Nurturing not only bodies, but hearts too.

While waiting for my hair cut appointment, I saw a couple who looked familiar, but I couldn't decide how I knew them. I mentioned to her husband, who was waiting for his wife, that they looked familiar and asked what church they attended. He mentioned a church in Huber Heights, and I shared I attended Grace Lutheran in town. His comment was, "We use to attend Grace." BINGO! That was how I knew them.

By this time, his wife was near us, and I told them my name. She recognized it, and we brainstormed the various areas at Grace we may have connected. We served on Grace's Meals on Call team together. We chatted for a few minutes and then they left.

Soon, this lovely lady rushed back into the salon to tell me she had started her current church's Meals on Call Team! She was excited to share how the format of Grace's outreach was successful in her church too. It was very heartwarming to hear the essence of Grace had reached Huber Heights.

A little background on Meals on Call...

Eleven years ago, when Tom and I joined Grace, *Meals on Call* was facilitated by our precious, Ellen Whitaker, who passed forward in April of this year. She had asked me to take over when she decided to step down.

We continue to have a small, devoted group of volunteers who prepare and deliver meals to those at Grace who are in need. This includes people with recent surgeries, illnesses, new babies, etc. People are asked to reach out to the office if they are interested in receiving a few meals. Sometimes, members of our team become aware and do the asking. It's all part of God's Plan.

We have a small budget line for volunteers to turn in their receipts and receive reimbursement. Seldom do our volunteers do that, but it is there and encouraged. To help things run smoothly, I generally sign up for the first meal. I find out allergies, preferences, etc., and set up the days of delivery. This allows me to find the home and guide our volunteers to where they need to go. There are months we do not have any requests, but when we do, it is generally for a week of meals. An e-mail or phone call is made to our team members to see who has the time to provide one and a schedule is made up.

And that is the basis of our team. Does it tug at your heart as a serving area you would be interested in joining? If so, please know we have a spot just for you! You may contact me by e-mailing at deb.oneal2nd@yahoo.com, or text me at 937-408-1578. I promise to respond in a most timely manner.