

20 March 26

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Messenger



Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

On the day I write these words we are in our second day of the Lenten season – a 40-day time of reflection and preparation for Easter Sunday. (Sundays don't count in the period between Ash Wednesday and Easter.) Those 40 days are offered by the church as a way for us to imitate the 40 days of preparation Jesus had prior to the beginning of His earthly ministry.

I don't suspect that many of you are fasting the entire 40 days as Jesus did, nor do I suspect that you are having face-to-face conversations with the devil as Jesus did. (You can read about those in Matthew 4). Fasting, though very Biblical, doesn't happen much these days. We might give up certain foods (like broccoli?), but an all-out fast is far less common.

But what if our fasting was not food-related? What if we instead fasted from ...

... Complaining? If you struggle with seeing the good in people or in situations, give up the complaining and pray to see something good instead. You might come through Lent with a more positive attitude.

... Scrolling? Substitute mindless social media time for more Scripture reading. You might find that the Scriptures come alive for you.

... Worrying? Focus instead on God's love and care for you. You just might sleep better.

They say it takes 21 days to develop a new habit. You have plenty of time to "fast" your way out of a bad habit.

MARCH OUTREACH CORNER



children's
rescue center, inc

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday April 12th, during the Sunday school hour, Jessi Whitacre, the new Director for the

Children's Rescue Center, will be here to

His hands. His feet... 

update us on the wonderful ministries they

are offering for our inner city children including after school programs (the Ark), free clothing and household item pantries, Tuesday night meals, and new Foster family support. This ministry happens alongside the Jefferson Street Oasis Garden and has a lot of opportunities to get involved and volunteer. I pray you are able to attend and hear more about their wonderful work.



ONE PLUS GOD

Our March outreach focus highlights **One Plus God Ministries (OPG)**, an NALC ministry partner offering international mission trips and faith-building retreats for men, women, and couples.

2026 Mission Trips:

Costa Rica (June 7–13 or July 19–25) • South Africa (June 9–19 or July 21–30) • Tanzania (July 9–21, Grace Jackson Center trip) • Thailand (July 29–Aug. 9)

Men's Conferences:

March 28 – 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Wapakoneta, OH ("I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life") – \$25

August 22 – 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Marion, OH ("What If") – \$10

Women's Events:

April 11 – 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Wapakoneta, OH. Conference ("Enthroned and Protected") – \$10

April 25 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Spring Tea (Marion, OH, no cost) – Make Beaded Butterflies, enjoy tea, and hear about Pastor Annalie's ministry to "the Poorest of the Poor" in South Africa

Couples Retreat:

Nov. 13–15 – Berlin, OH ("Something New") – \$350 per couple

Learn more at oneplusgod.org or contact Sandy Thompson for details.

EMERGE



EXCITING UPDATES FROM EMERGE RECOVERY & TRADE INITIATIVE!

We are excited to share that Emerge will soon be opening a new outpatient treatment center right here in Springfield. The center will be located at **1055 E. High Street**, in the same building as the Mental Health and Recovery Board, expanding access to vital recovery resources in our community.

In addition, their women's residential facility, **Restoration House**, is nearing completion and is expected to open around April. They are currently seeking support to help make this space warm, welcoming, and comfortable for the women who will call it home. If you would like to contribute, please consider supporting their Amazon wish list:

Restoration House See the Narthex for more information or Sandy Thompson.

Thank you for helping us support recovery and restoration in our community!

YOUTH MINISTRY



SUPPORT OUR YOUTH MISSION TRIP: Our youth will be serving at a work camp in Belle, West Virginia, June 21–27, 2026, and we invite you to be part of their journey. A fundraiser is now underway—please look for the large basket of Easter eggs in the Narthex for details.

If you feel called to support this mission, donations may also be given directly to Darla.

Thank you for encouraging and uplifting our youth through your generosity and prayers.

YOUNG AT HEART



--- Bob Gray Orchestra

--- LaComedia Dinner Theater Murder On The Orient Express

--- Springfield Arts Council Singers.

--- Comedia Dinner Theater Singin' In The Rain

--- March 15th Rusted River Methodist High Street Church 3:00 p.m.

---April 10th La Comedia Dinner Theater Jesus Christ Superstar Musical.

Young at heart continues to enjoy the concert series at Covenant Presbyterian and the sanctuary series at High Street Methodist. 22 of us enjoyed La Comedia Dinner Theater in January and we have a larger group going here this coming week. Above are some of the future events. Please come join us for Christian Fellowship.



JOHN 13:1-7. JESUS WASHES FEET



Jesus knew his time was near, but he had something more he wanted to teach his disciples. "So he got up from the meal, took off his outer garment, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he filled a basin with water and began to wash their feet, drying them with the towel wrapped around him". Can you imagine the gentle hands of Jesus washing feet? This job was to be done by a lowly servant, not a religious teacher, a Rabbi.

Peter, impetuous Peter, didn't understand why Jesus was doing this and, at first, would not let him do it. Jesus explained to Peter, "unless I wash you, you have no part of me".

Why did Jesus wash their feet? He was setting an example of being humble, being a servant to benefit others, to do as he did. If we are to be a 'part of Jesus', we are to serve...to show the same kind of love Jesus did. That act of selfless service may meet a need of another AND draw them to want to know Jesus. "Let your Light shine; so that others might see the good that you do, and praise your Father in Heaven."

Matt. 5:16-19)

Here are words of a favorite song of mine:

Will you let me be your servant?

Let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the Grace to

Let you be my servant, too.

Will you love and serve others? Will you deny the blessing of someone who may want to serve you in some way? (Peter came to mind).

Go, be like Jesus.

MARCH CALENDER 2026

Sunday, Mar 1

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:45 am Worship
8:00 pm Community Group

Monday, Mar 2

6:30 pm Griefshare
7:00 pm Track Officials

Tuesday, Mar 3

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am Staff Meeting
6:00 pm Culture Crew
7:00 pm Cub Scouts

Wednesday, Mar 4

9:30 am MomCo
6:30 Pm MomCo
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, Mar 5

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
1:00 pm Quilters
6:00 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm Worship

Friday, Mar 6

8:00 pm Community Group

Saturday, Mar 7

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, Mar 8

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:45 am Worship
8:00 pm Community Group
Egg Assembly

Monday, Mar 9

Prayer Canopy
6:30 pm Women's BS
6:30 pm Griefshare

Tuesday, Mar 10

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am Staff Meeting
2:00 pm Joy Guild
7:00 pm Cub Scouts

Wednesday, Mar 11

8:30 am Mission Inc.
10:00 am Hope Guild
1:00 pm Charity Guild
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, Mar 12

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
1:00 pm Quilters
6:00 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm Worship

Friday, Mar 13

8:00 pm Community Group

Saturday, Mar 14

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
7am-12 Autumn Trails

Sunday, Mar 15

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:45 am Worship
8:00 pm Community Group

Monday, Mar 16

5:30 pm Prayer Support team
6:00 pm Young life banquet
6:30 pm Women's BS
6:30 pm Griefshare

Tuesday, Mar 17

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Cub Scouts

Wednesday, Mar 18

9:30 am MomCo
6:30 Pm MomCo
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, Mar 19

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
6:00 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm Worship

Friday, Mar 20

8:00 pm Community Group

Saturday, Mar 21

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
10:00 am Prayer Partners

Sunday, Mar 22

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
Congregational Meeting
10:45 am Worship
8:00 pm Community Group

Monday, Mar 23

6:00 pm SCYM Dessert Fund
Raiser
6:30 pm Women's BS
6:30 pm Griefshare

Tuesday, Mar 24

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Cub Scouts

Wednesday, Mar 25

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, Mar 26

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
6:00 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm Worship

Friday, Mar 27

8:00 pm Community Group

Saturday, Mar 28

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, Mar 29

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:45 am Worship
8:00 pm Community Group

Monday, Mar 30

8-5 Lifeline Screening
6:30 pm Griefshare

Tuesday, Mar 31

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Cub Scouts

CHILDRENS MINISTRY



Our 5th graders will have the opportunity to participate in First Communion during the Maundy Thursday Service on April 2nd at 7:00 PM. After the service, we will celebrate with the children, family and friends in the Fellowship Hall. There will be instructional meetings with Pastor Brodbeck on Wednesdays, March 11th, 18th and 25th. If your child is in 5th grade or older and would like to participate, please let Leslie McKinney or Pastor Brodbeck know.



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4, 2026

10:00am

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

THANK YOU LETTER

Dear Grace family,

We just wanted to send a donation to the church, especially for the Card Ministry.

We're sure that you must know how important the cards have been to people who are in need. Please know that the cards have meant the world to us over the years. So, keep up the good work of sending out God's Love.

Rick and Sherry Potts

THANK YOU LETTER

Dear Grace Members,

Thank you for all of the cards from the church, visits, prayers, and flowers it gives me comfort to know that I am in everyone's prayers. The visits meant so much to me at the hospital and Wooded Glen. I miss coming to church and seeing all of your lovely faces.

In Christ Love,

Kathi Lindsey

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



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Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace



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