

April MESSENGER



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

2026



Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

We switch into the month of April just as the final days of Holy Week and Easter are about to happen. There is a holiday, of sorts, though that kicks off the month before we turn our attention back to the events of Christ's passion. April 1 (Wednesday) is, of course, April Fools' Day.

All joking aside, isn't it ironic how the calendar lines up this year?

Psalm 14:1 reminds us that "the fool says in his heart, 'there is no God'." This, of course, does not mean that atheists are stupid but it does say that choosing to live one's life apart from God is unwise. There are eternal consequences to that choice. Those consequences are applicable even to the one who acknowledges the existence of God but still opts to live life on their own terms.

If you, or someone you know, is uncertain about this whole "God-thing" I encourage you to investigate the story. Some of the world's biggest skeptics have done the hard work and published their findings. Read such books as "Evidence That Demands a Verdict" (by Josh McDowell) or "The Case for Christ" (by Lee Strobel). Google the word "apologetics" to find even more resources.

And if you want to talk about it, let me know. I welcome the conversation.

April Outreach Corner



His hands. His feet... 

BREAKFAST BREAK SUNDAY APRIL 12TH:

during the Sunday school hour, Jessi Whitacre, the new Director for the Children's Rescue Center, will be here to 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.

ST JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY:

May is one of our months to serve at St John's Food Pantry on Wednesday mornings. If you are interested in helping to distribute food, please contact Judy Fredrich at 937-925-1177. They could also use fruit, soup, Ramen Noodles, Cereal, bread, toilet paper, soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste, etc. PLEASE PLACE IN ST JOHN'S GROCERY CART BY 4/26/26



APRIL OUTREACH FOCUS:

We will be collecting diapers and wipes for the Children's Rescue Center's new Fostering the Village program. This program supports local foster parents with support groups and donations of needed items to care for the children. See the Narthex for more information.



Staff Announcement



GRACE WELCOMES NEW NURSERY ATTENDANT

Grace Lutheran is delighted to welcome **Alli Matteson, RN, EMT**, back to the Grace church family.

Alli will be joining the Grace staff as our new **Nursery Attendant**, beginning **March 23, 2026**.

In her new role, Alli will oversee the Grace Nursery, providing a safe, welcoming, and nurturing environment for our youngest members—from infants through five-year-olds—so parents can fully participate in worship with peace of mind.

Originally from Springfield, Alli grew up here at Grace and is excited to be returning home after living in Texas. She holds an associate's degree in Multiskilled Healthcare and Emergency Medical Services, as well as her RN degree from Clark State.

Alli and her husband, Jake, are returning to Ohio with their one-year-old daughter, Riley. They enjoy spending time outdoors hiking, kayaking, and gardening, and are looking forward to experiencing all the seasons Ohio offers!

“We are excited to welcome someone with her background and experience to not only lead our nursery but also help us intentionally engage young families here in Springfield,” said Executive Director Sandy Thompson.

New Liturgical Setting Coming Soon

Starting the first Sunday in May, Grace will begin using a new liturgical setting in its worship services. While this setting may be new to some of you, many others will remember it from about 10 years ago.

Now the Feast and Celebration retains the traditional format of the liturgy we have been using, but employs celebratory music that easily invites the participation of the congregation. This setting was commissioned by the campus ministry of Pacific Lutheran University and was written primarily by Marty Haugen.

To acquaint (or re-acquaint) ourselves with it, we will be practicing portions of the new liturgy as a part of our Words of Welcome on the last two Sundays of April.

Join Us!!!

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser



Hosted by Living Water Lutheran Church in Centerville.

667 Miamisburg-Centerville Rd

Join for an evening of food followed by a Live Auction for dessert with the majority of the proceeds supporting the Youth Mission Trip this summer.

Dinner is **free**, Auction will be **fun**, and you'll be supporting our **Youth!**

Saturday, April 18th at 5pm for dinner

Please use QR code to RSVP and/or to donate a dessert for the auction!!

Ohio Mission Region Convocation

The annual convocation of the Ohio Mission Region will be held Friday, May 1 (noon to 5:30 pm) and Saturday, May 2 (8 am – 3 pm) at St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City, OH. Everyone (not just lay delegates) is invited to this two-day event.

The theme of the event is "Not Ashamed." It will feature the teaching ministry of Dr. Christopher Croghan and Professor Sarah Stenson, both from the Lutheran House of Study. They will be presenting material on the first three chapters of the Epistle to the Romans.

The event description reads: In these sessions, we'll talk about Paul's essential vocabulary. We'll also dig into the first few chapters of his letter in which Paul identifies the root of sin, God's chosen people, and the role of God's Law as it drives us to the Gospel of Christ.

Registration forms are available in the narthex.

Children Ministry

FEBRUARY PRAYER PARTNER SERVICE PROJECT



Our Prayer Partners cut and assembled hats from fleece. They were donated to the Springfield Soup Kitchen.

Young At Heart

Springfield Arts Council singers, Rusted River, and Singing in the Rain Musical have been enjoyed in the last 6 weeks. Upcoming we have the Wright State University trombone Studio, Springfield Youth Choir and Jesus Christ Superstar Musical at our local menus. See the narthex for time and dates. Spring is here. Come out of your cocoon. Enjoy us for Christian fun and fellowship. Nothing better than Christian friends. See you soon!!

Thank You Letter

I so appreciate all the prayers, beautiful cards and support having the other leg complete knee replacement and recovery.

Thank you In Christ's Love,
Shirl Settles



Holy Week and Easter

The old adage reminds us that April brings showers. And while we cannot make any guarantees about the weather, we can assure you that the Grace sanctuary will be “showered” with many worship opportunities in the first few days of the month.

April 2 is Maundy Thursday. We will worship at both noon and 7 pm. Both services will include Holy Communion and conclude with the “stripping the altar,” a moving reminder that Jesus was stripped of everything as He left heaven and went to the cross on our behalf. In the evening service, four of our young people will celebrate their first communion. (A fifth will do so at a later service due to a scheduling conflict.) That evening service will be live-streamed.

April 3 is Good Friday, and we will once again worship at noon and 7 pm. These are the only services of the year where Holy Communion is not offered, a stark reminder that Christ is on the cross that day. Worshippers will be invited to come to the chancel area to hammer a nail in the cross as a way of acknowledging that our sins are forgiven through the death of Jesus. The evening service will be live streamed.

Not a worship service, but certainly a time of celebration happens on Saturday, April 4 at 10 am as the annual Grace Easter Egg Hunt happens. Bring the kids!

Easter Sunday morning is always special at Grace. The bright sunshine beaming through the many windows reminds us that Christ is risen indeed! We will worship at 8 am and 10:45 am. There is no Sunday School that day to accommodate the worship schedule.

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