

## Hanging of the Greens...

This year the Hanging of the Greens will take on a different look. The Parking Lot will be the setting. If anyone has a tasteful, church appropriate decoration they would like to display at the church you are welcome to bring it. Sunday, November 22 will be decorating day.

## Elmore Food Pantry

The Elmore Food Pantry is hosted by Grace. The program is looking for volunteers to assist in distributing food. If you can give of your time, please call the church office at 419-862-3630. The Food Pantry is now open on the third Friday and Saturday of each month from 9:00 AM to Noon. In November, the Food Pantry will be open on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of the month.

## November Gospel Readings....

November 1– Matthew 5: 1-12  
November 8– Matthew 25: 1-13  
November 15– Matthew 25: 14-30  
November 22– Matthew 25: 31-46  
November 29– Mark 13: 24-37

## Wise Words for November

*So let us not grow weary  
in doing what is right.*

Galatians 6: 9a

## From the Pastor...

*<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

Matthew 11:28-30

I received an email from Bishop Daniel Beaudoin of the Northwestern Ohio Synod last week. As I read the verse above from Matthew it spelled out in plain words what many of us have been feeling. I'm not sure about you but there have been days where I'm tired, drained and yes weary. Weary of the pandemic and weary of trying to keep up with all the latest health and safety info. Weary of hearing about more and more people affected by and sick with covid. Weary of trying to determine best practices for how things should be done.

Thankfully there are many folks at Grace that have been diligent in identifying best practices within the congregation. They have given careful consideration to keeping everyone safe and healthy. As we head into the advent and Christmas season in the church things will be different. But hopefully things will be safe and healthy and good. The anticipation and birth of Jesus is definitely a cause for celebrating the good. As we look back at 2020 in a few years we are sure to remember it as a strange year. A strange year full of changes but hopefully some changes that have been good.

One thing we can be confident in is that Jesus will give us rest. Even on the days when we might be weary Jesus is there. Jesus is there to give us rest and will be present with us in all things. Even as we think outside the four walls of the church building and make this strange year into something different, something new and something good. So, when we feel weary let's pray for our weary selves and uplift one another remembering the promise that Jesus gives us rest and is present with us this day.

If you have any pastoral care needs please let me know. You can reach me by email at [pastorjacitiell@aol.com](mailto:pastorjacitiell@aol.com) or by phone at 419-215-8370.

Peace,

*Pastor Jaci Tiell*



**GIVE  
THANKS**  
FAMILY • FRIENDS • GRATITUDE

### The Values We Share...

Worship weekly.  
Invite others to join us.  
Embrace one another.  
Keep on learning.  
Give regularly and generously.  
Be good stewards and willing servants.

### Meeting Notice..

The Board of Property will meet November 5, 2020 at 5:30pm in the Conference Room.

The next Council Meeting will be Zoom on November 18, 2020 at 7:00pm

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### Thank You's...

...from **Lutheran Disaster Response**...Thank you for your gift of \$700.00. Your spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters her in the United States. (hurricanes) These gifts enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future. The glory of God is shining through you.

### Poinsettias...

This year, we'll be decorating the Narthex area and parking lot for Christmas Eve with poinsettias. Each plant comes in a 6½" pot with red foil...a single stem with 5 -8 blooms. Choose red, pink, or white color. All plants come from Bench's.

Please use the order form at the right. Orders and payment are due in the church office by **Sunday, December 6**. Please make your check payable to Grace Lutheran Church; note "Poinsettia" on the memo line.

## Fall Meeting Is Sunday, November 1, 2020...

**Annual Congregational Meeting.** The meeting will be held in the Grace parking lot after worship on Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. The agenda will include the presentation of the 2021 budget and the election of 2021 Officers and Board Chairmen. Members who are interested in serving are urged to contact a Council member. Nominations or recommendations are especially needed for a Vice President and Board of Education Chairman.

**We need every member** to be a part of this conversation. Please make room in your calendar to stay after worship on November 1st so that we can decide together how we will make best use of God's gifts to us in carrying out the ministry we have been given. See you on the 1st.



### Elmore Community Thanksgiving Feast...



Plans have now been finalized for the Annual Elmore Community Dinner that will be served on Thanksgiving Day, the 26<sup>th</sup> of November. This is a community event that the Grace congregation supports each year.

The Thanksgiving Dinner will be drive-through only this year, with serving from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November.


The organizing committee plans to serve between 500 and 600 meals.

Cash donations are still needed to ensure food and supplies can be obtained. Checks, payable to Grace, with "Thanksgiving Dinner" on the memo line, are appreciated.

Grace has been asked to provide apple, cherry and pumpkin pies, that will serve a minimum of eight. They can be dropped off at Woodmore on Wednesday (preferred) or Thursday morning before 10:00 AM.

Persons interested in volunteering should call Robin at 419-266-5365. Help will be needed on Wednesday for food preparation and on Thursday for serving the meals.

Name: _____ Phone: _____	
I would like ____ red plants at \$10 each	= \$ _____
I would like ____ pink plants at \$10 each	= \$ _____
I would like ____ white plants at \$10 each =	\$ _____
Total = ____ plants;	\$ _____
In memory of/in honor of _____	



## Get in Touch with Grace...

The church office is closed at this time due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Joyce is working from home, checking messages, email, and mail everyday. Write us at anytime at [graceelc@gmail.com](mailto:graceelc@gmail.com). Got a prayer request? Email it to the address above or call the office and leave a message. 419-862-3630.

## Congratulations...to the

following with a birthday in

November:

Alexandra Haar	3
Jacob Blausey	7
Randall Ford	16
Emily Haar	16
Sydni Buhrow	17
Gary Daniel	18
Meghan Pirkil	20
Janice Bench	21
LaVerne Edwards	26
Samuel Schlievert	26
Nickolas Blausey	27
Rachel Beeler	27
Jamie Stahl	28
Shirley Buhrow	29

## BEST WISHES also to those

couples celebrating November anniversaries:

Shawn/Tammie Duncan  
16

Randy/Linda Jacobs  
16

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## November's Food Pantry Item:

Tomato Juice

46 oz. can



## Thank Offering Boxes...

Ladies, are your Thank Offering boxes overflowing? Have you remembered to use it each time you are thankful on an occasion you said thanks to God for something great happened to you? This is a tradition from the early years in the church. Sunday, November 22 will be our ingathering. Mark your calendar and set your boxes out to bring. If you haven't been using your box a check will be accepted as well.

**Operation Oreo.** Operation Oreo is an outreach program at Grace that maintains contacts with military personnel from this area and provides them with goody boxes every other month and a card/letter every other month. Each goody box contains Oreo cookies (of course!), puzzle books, toothbrush, toothpaste, Chapstick, popcorn, nuts, gum and individually wrapped snacks. If you have a name to add to the list or have any questions, please contact Jennifer Marquardt. Military personnel currently served through this program are:

**Garrett Mapes**, Air National Guard, 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo Express Airport. Mapes is an Air Guard Crew Chief who attends OSU and is deployed to Afghanistan. He was recently added to the Operation Oreo program.

**SGT Stephen Simkus**, U. S. Army Special Forces, Fort Bragg NC. SGT Simkus is currently assigned to an Army language school at Fort Bragg where he is receiving training in the Arabic language.

**Cadet Julian Sanchez**, U. S. Military Academy; West Point NY. Cadet Sanchez is a former state high school wrestling champion (Genoa HS) and now is a member of the Army (USMA) wrestling team.

## WEEKLY OFFERING 2020

Week 1	\$8,113.35	Week 2	\$2,322.67
Week 3	\$2,294.00	Week 4	\$1,847.00
Week 5	\$2,701.00	Week 6	\$2,429.00
Week 7	\$2,381.25	Week 8	\$2,053.00
Week 9	\$3,339.00	Week 10	\$1,439.00
Week 11	\$6,942.00	Week 12	\$1,264.00
Week 13	\$662.00	Week 14	\$2,236.00
Week 15	\$1,563.00	Week 16	\$6,060.00
Week 17	\$1,204.00	Week 18	\$5,869.00
Week 19	\$2,137.00	Week 20	\$2,239.00
Week 21	\$3,067.00	Week 22	\$2,762.00
Week 23	\$3,267.00	Week 24	\$6,874.00
Week 25	\$1,819.00	Week 26	\$1,644.00
Week 27	\$1,991.00	Week 28	\$2,832.00
Week 29	\$2,334.00	Week 30	\$2,144.00
Week 31	\$3,782.00	Week 32	\$1,677.00
Week 33	\$2,438.00	Week 34	\$1,338.00
Week 35	\$1,947.50	Week 36	\$3,177.00
Week 37	\$2,278.85	Week 38	\$7,747.00
Week 39	\$2,589.00	Week 40	\$2,952.00
Week 41	\$2,893.00	Week 42	\$731.00
Week 43	\$2057.00		

Total \$123,436.62



Needed from Offering for 2020 \$150,100 Budget Gap (\$26,663.38)  
Weekly Goal \$2,887 Avg. Week \$2,870

**God is unfailing in blessing and love. With thankful hearts, let us offer up to God a portion of what God has given us.**



The Grace Lutheran Church Council met via Zoom on October 8, 2020. Members present were: Karen Hammel,

Rachel Beeler, Gary Anderson, Deb Boos, Nancy Pries, Shirley Damschroder, Pastor Jaci, and guests, Joyce Bruntz, and Bobbi Bean.

President Gary Anderson opened the meeting, and Pastor Jaci offered prayer.

A date correction was made to the September 16, 2020 minutes and they were approved.

The September Financial Report was presented and approved.

#### **Old Business:**

The church website has been created by Mann Technologies. The proof and link has been supplied to council members for suggestions and/or approval.

Parking lot services will continue until we have extreme weather. Communion will be offered the second and fourth week of the month. We will be discussing how or if we will resume conducting services in the sanctuary during the next few meetings.

#### **New Business:**

We will have a Congregational Meeting on November 1, 2020 after the drive in service. The budget will be presented and we will hold the election of officers. We are in need of a chair for the Board of Education and the Board of Congregational Life, and a treasurer.

It is our year to host the Thanksgiving Community Service. Details about how we will conduct the service will be discussed at our next meeting.

#### **Board Reports:**

**Call Committee:** Karen reported that the Call Committee has been meeting and working on the Ministry Site Profile. The next meeting will be on October 13, 2020.

**Board of Missions:** Nancy reported that 100 blankets and 273 backpacks and personal care kits will be delivered to St. Paul, New Rochester on Saturday morning, October 10, 2020.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor reported that she would like to have a Blessing of the Pets Service on October 18, 2020. Members will be encouraged to bring their pets, and treats will be provided for the dogs.

**Board of Education:** Shirley reported that Affirmation of Baptism is planned for October 25. The board will be providing cookies for the congregation to celebrate the event.

#### **Announcements:**

All members of our congregation are reminded to put their Elect Jesus signs in their yards if they have one.

The next council meeting will be held on October 28, 2020 via Zoom.

A motion was made by Karen, second Nancy, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting concluded with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hammel, Church Council Secretary



## President's Report – November 2020

Last March, the covid-pandemic forced churches all over America to change how they worship and conduct church activities. Our decisions at Grace emphasized practices to protect the health and safety of Grace's members, especially our many older members. We stopped holding in-person meetings or activities and after a series of virtual worship sessions, changed our worship services to Drive-Up Worship. When all this started, we hoped the emergency might be over by summer, but November will now be our ninth month of this. With covid cases again escalating in Ohio and most other states, we can expect several more months of this before we will return to anything resembling normal worship and church activities.

As the Grace Council continues to evaluate the alternatives for worship, we have decided that the best alternative is to continue worshipping outside as long as possible. We have several members who tell us that with their health or age situations they feel safe with outdoor worship and would not feel safe entering the sanctuary. We know we have other members who want to return to worship in the sanctuary. There are several churches in the area that are worshipping indoors but we are not sure this is the safest approach, especially given the current increase in covid infections.

The Council has adopted a contingency plan for conducting worship in the sanctuary that will be followed if colder weather makes outdoor worship impossible. However, this plan has significant "best practice" restrictions. Family units would be seated in every other pew. Masks are required throughout the service. There would be no hymn singing, no passing of the peace, no passing of offering plates; communion would be the same as how we are doing it in the parking lot (bring your own elements or take pre-packaged communion kits). At this point, parking lot worship appears to be safer and the worship experience is probably just as meaningful as it would be in a best practice restricted in-sanctuary worship.

In his weekly message to Synod Churches in the last week of October, Bishop Beaudoin quoted Galatians 6:9, which reads, "***So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up***". He then went on to say:

*Dear Friends in Christ, this is not the time to let our guard down and grow weary. Please follow your Parish Plans of Return. Please show some love and grace to your pastors, deacons, and parish leaders, who are trying so very hard to keep you and the community safe. Please do your part as a follower of Jesus to encourage, strengthen, and build up the people around you. So, let us not grow weary of being the people whom God has called us to be.*

The covid-era continues, and we cannot let ourselves "grow weary" of the limitations this pandemic has placed on our lives and our worship. The Grace Council must continue to make decisions that choose between safety and trying to return to normal. Our decisions will continue to maintain the health and safety of our members

*(continued on page 6)*

**WEAR YOUR MASK**



**Keep Yourself and Others Safe**

## Salvation Army Angel Tree...

The next two months bring extra financial burdens. Through the Angel Tree project they provide a Christmas gift for the children in your family. They will take your requests and write them on Angel ornaments and hang them on Christmas Trees in the Woodvill Library and in Elmore at Harris Elmore Library. A person wishing to donate an item will take the Angel from the tree, purchase the item and return it to us. The items will then be distributed in December. If you are in need, you must fill out a form and return it by mail or to your child's school. All circumstances are considered private and your privacy will be respected.

The church office has a form to apply. Call this number and leave a message to apply. 419-862-3630.

### SAVE YOUR MILK JUGS...

The Christmas Eve service will be held in the parking lot this year. Please wash and save your gallon milk jugs to light the way for

**The CHRIST CHILD.**

*(President's Message Continued)*

Not every decision will satisfy everyone, but we hope all of our members will continue their commitments to "build up the people around us."

**WORSHIP PLANS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.** The Council recently confirmed these plans for worship during the next two months:

**Sunday Worship.** Sunday worship will continue to be drive-up worship in the parking lot, starting at 10:00 AM, as long as weather permits.

**Parish Plan of Return.** Grace has a plan of return that can be implemented if and when the weather mandates a return to in-sanctuary worship.

**Communion.** Communion will be served on the 8th and 22nd of November. In December, communion will be served on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Eve Service.** There will be a Christmas Eve service at 7:00 PM on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December. The service will be held outside in the parking lot and will include carols, communion and candles.

**Advent Wednesday Evening Prayer Services.** Advent evening prayer services will be held on 2, 9 and 16 December. Services will be outdoors starting at 7:00 PM. There will be no Advent soup suppers this year.

**Grace Financial Matters.** The 2021 budget for Grace was presented to the Congregational Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. Projections at this point indicate that members will meet or come very close to meeting the weekly offerings target of \$2,885 per week that was approved in the 2020 budget. Net income vs. expense projections for 2020 indicate that Grace will end this year with a small surplus. The 2021 budget also projects a small surplus at the end of next year. This good financial situation is due to several factors. Members have continued to give during the covid-emergency, and we have been conservative in making expenditures during this difficult year. The biggest impact of all may simply be the fact that Grace changed from a full-time pastoral compensation package to a half-time package in September 2019.

**Support and Care for Each Other.** As the challenges of the covid-emergency continue, it is important for all of us in the Grace family to support the church by attending worship and continuing to pray and care for each other. Please remember especially those on our Prayer Concerns list and those with special needs. If any of you know of anyone in need, please report this to Pastor Jaci ([pastorjacitiell@aol.com](mailto:pastorjacitiell@aol.com) or 419-215-8370) or Gary Anderson ([dcmgaryanderson@gmail.com](mailto:dcmgaryanderson@gmail.com) or 419-607-3036).

***Peace be with you!***

**Gary Anderson, Grace Council President**

**Turn Your Clocks Back**

