

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

**Maundy Thursday** April 1 at 7:00pm. Drive up worship with communion and the stripping of the altar.

**Good Friday** April 2 at 7:00pm. Service of ails.

**Easter Vigil** April 3. Easter Vigil will be a virtual service (no drive-up worship). A link will be available to access the virtual Easter Vigil service.

**Easter Sunday April 4th 10:00am Drive-up worship with communion**

### Holy Week Prayer...



O Christ, grant us grace and hope as we prepare for Good Friday. By your crucifixion

and resurrection, you overcome death and all the powers of evil. As you raise us up to new life, use our hands, hearts, and voices to see that all people benefit from the abundance of God's creation. Amen

**HAPPINESS  
blooms where seeds  
of LOVE and JOY  
are planted.**

## A Gospel Reflection

from Steve Peterson-Living Your Passion

Of the four gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) Mark's resurrection story might seem the least fun and satisfying. Beyond a few common details, it feels like there is more going on in the other gospel's. More conversation, more angel intrigue, more dramatic action. We get the sense in the other gospels that we can linger a bit in satisfaction and delight. We feel a little more like celebrating after reading the other gospel accounts of the resurrection.

In Mark, it's just the facts: He's not dead anymore, he has been raised, tell the disciples, you can see him back home in Galilee, he's not here. That seems to be the point in Mark; he is risen, get going and meet him in Galilee! So, they flee in terror and amazement, afraid to tell anyone. Full stop. What is this all going to mean for them?

They knew what he was like before rising from the dead... stirring up all kinds of good trouble, holy trouble. Healing the sick, feeding the hungry, breaking down barriers between people which some powerful people don't want broken down. He brought hope to the broken-hearted and release to all kinds of people, including some people not everyone wanted freed. He brought the Kingdom of God that he talked about. If that was what Jesus was like before, they must have wondered, what kind of good trouble will he get into now that he had risen from the dead? And they are supposed to meet him back in the neighborhood! Maybe that's part of their terror and amazement, wondering what more might happen!

Maybe this gospel's resurrection story is pretty exciting after all! Like the disciples, we are told to meet Jesus in *our* neighborhoods! Jesus has risen! He is meeting us in our neighborhoods, calling us to live his resurrection life with him. We are not alone. He is meeting us there; giving us the passion and gifts to make a difference in the world—feeding the hungry, healing the sick, telling the truth, tearing down walls between people by proclaiming and living Jesus' love for all people, and giving "clear-eyed hope." Jesus is risen, and he is calling us to live his resurrection hope and be an influence for his hope in our world today.

Risen Jesus, thank you for showing us your power over death and all that brings death, sadness, hurt and suffering in the world. Make us instruments of your resurrection love and power in the world. Help us to live your resurrection hope in our neighborhoods. Amen



## OPERATION OREO



Please keep all of the military in your prayers, but especially: SGT Stephen Simkus and Cadet Julian Sanchez.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to Operation Oreo to help offset the cost of shipping and also the contents of the Goody boxes -- Just mark "Op Oreo" on the memo line of your check.

If you have a name to add to our list or if you have any questions about Operation Oreo, please contact Jennifer Marquardt

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## GRACE SCHOLARSHIP

Grace has a Scholarship Fund that provides scholarships for high school seniors who are selected to receive them. Graduating 2021 seniors who are members of the Grace congregation are eligible to apply for the scholarship. Anyone who wants more information about this program should contact Karen Hammel. An application form may be requested from the Church Secretary.

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**Faith does not mean trusting God to stop the storm, but trusting Him to strengthen us as we walk through the storm**



## Thank You...

**...from Lutheran Disaster Response...** Thank you for your gift of \$712.84. Your spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

**...from Redeemer Lutheran Church...** Dear Friends in Christ at Grace... Thank you for your generosity toward us and those we serve! We have been blessed with such amazing partners during the past months which allowed us to go above and beyond during this great need. The pandemic brought us people who had never before had to use a food pantry... we have consistently been open for curbside pick up for all families and individuals in and serving over 9000 people this year. 4800 + of them through the hunger advocacy food program. We served groceries enough to provide approximately 125.00 meals to the community. WOW! You and your generosity make our ministry possible. Thank you. You have made a real difference in the lives of so many people. God Bless You! *Pastor Lori & the people of Redeemer.*

**...from Ottawa County Project Lifesaver..** Dear Friends at Grace Lutheran Church, Please accept our sincere thanks for your donation in the amount of \$369.14 for the Lifesaver Project. We appreciate you thinking of us and helping us to continue this valuable service for the residents of Ottawa county. We truly appreciate your generosity.

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## Deacons for April & May

<b>4/1/2021 Maundy Thurs.</b>	Mark & Jennifer Haar
<b>4/2/2021 Good Friday</b>	Gary Anderson & Randy Jacobs
<b>4/3/2021 Easter Vigil</b>	Virtual Service
<b>4/4/2021 Easter</b>	Deb & Jeff Boos/Jean & Merlyn Weng
<b>4/11/2021</b>	Rachel Beeler & Joan Eckermann
<b>4/18/2021</b>	Mary & Mike Schlievert
<b>4/25/2021</b>	Rachel Beeler & Dave Wietelmann
<b>5/2/2021</b>	Mary & Mike Schlievert
<b>5/9/2021</b>	Deb & Jeff Boos
<b>5/16/2021</b>	Joan Eckermann & Randy Jacobs
<b>5/23/2021</b>	Jean & Merlyn Weng
<b>5/30/2021</b>	Rachel Beeler & Dave Wietelmann

## Thinking of You...

Hi Grace People,

The most wonderful thing showed up at my door. It looked like Mary and a little lamb following her. Yes it was Jayne Klett and a young gentleman (Brady Buhrow) following, sure enough it was and they left me a neat heart pillow. Seemed like old times and made my day for Grace Days come back. *Fondly Mitzie Paule.*

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## Looking For Work

**Kelly Professional & Industrial** is recruiting new hires for the **Whirlpool Co.** in Clyde Ohio.

Learn more by calling or texting 419-307-4087 or 419-982-8803 or [mykellyjobs.com](http://mykellyjobs.com)

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**Riverview Health Care Campus** is also looking for all types of employees: aides, dietary, house-keeping, STNA,s, and Registered Nurses. For more information call 419-898-2851.

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## Message for the Soul...

Don't wait for things to get better

Life will always be complicated

Learn to be happy right now, otherwise, you'll run out of time.

### 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.



## Council minutes March 11, 2021

The March 11, 2021 Grace Lutheran Church Council meeting was held via Zoom at 7 pm. The meeting was brought to order by President, Gary Anderson. Those in attendance were: Amy Simkus, Steve Simkus, Karen Hammel, Nancy Pries, Mary Schlievert, Deb Boos, Gary Anderson, Randy Jacobs, Pastor Jaci, and guest, Joyce Bruntz. Pastor Jaci opened the meeting with prayer.

Good News! 1)Many council and congregational members are getting vaccinated! 2)Some nursing homes are allowing visitations! 3)Deb and Jeff Boos will be grandparents again! 4)Mike Schlievert's health is improving!

Prayer concerns were addressed.

The February 11, 20201 secretary's report was approved as submitted.

The February financial report was approved as submitted.

Jennifer Marquardt and Mike Schlievert have agreed to be members of the Audit Committee.

### Board of Worship – Submitted by Rachel Beeler

\*The Board of Worship has not met since our initial meeting in January 2021. We plan for an April meeting post-Easter to prepare for the upcoming liturgical seasons and summer worship.

\*The Board of Worship and Council will be re-evaluating the situation for summer worship and as it appears restrictions may begin to be lifted in the next few months, we might look at summer as a possible time to "normalize" our worship again.

\* Deacons for Drive Up Worship - A second rotation was completed by Joyce for the months of April & May and will be available to deacons in the coming week(s).

\* Worship of Midweek Lent Services will continue for 2 more weeks on March 17th & March 24th). Join us at 7pm in the church parking lot.

\* Palm Sunday (Sunday, March 28th)

\*Drive -Up Worship; distribution of palms w/ Holy Communion on Maundy-Thursday (Thursday, April 1st) \* Drive-Up Worship w/Holy Communion @ 7pm; stripping of altar - Good Friday (Friday, April 2nd)

\*Drive-up Worship @ 7pm; "Service of the Nails"; distribution of nails

\* Easter Vigil (Saturday, April 3rd) Virtual service; check email and/or Facebook that day for link

\* Easter (Sunday April 4th): Drive-Up Worship w/Holy Communion

\* Anthems - Bobbie, Joan and I will continue to offer special music anthems through the end of May

### Board of Congregational Life – Reported by Mary Schlievert

The board met on February 2, 2021. Attendance: Mary S. (Chair), Joan E., Linda S., Nancy B., Rachel B.

The meeting opened with prayer. Mary reviewed the constitutional responsibilities of the board. These include

- Shepherds- An old Nevergall-era program no longer being used
  - WELCA- overseen by this board but self-contained and self-sufficient
  - Dartball- Does the board pay any fees?
  - Friends Helping Friends - Another defunct activity, we may look to revive this post-COVID
  - Funeral Meals - Notebook in kitchen, use church credit card, may need new people to organize meals. We are going to see what other area churches do, some just have the meals catered.
- Prayer Partners - 11 people signed up for 2021 Next, we reviewed past activities to see which ones we may pursue in the future. These included Rally Day, Seder Meal, Easter Vigil Reception, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinners to benefit Youth Travel Fund, Potluck Brunch for January meeting, Spotlight On, and Funeral Meals. Activities with limited past participation included Mud Hens/Walleye games, Game Nights, and Movie Outings.

*(Council Minutes Continued)*

**Happy Birthday to those having a birthday in April:**

- April Hille 4/5
- Robert Sondergeld 4/18
- Donna Foss 4/23
- Dee King 4/23
- John Marik 4/23
- Dawn Class 4/24
- Willard Buhrow 4/27
- Lisa Gerwin 4/28



**Happy Anniversary to those celebrating in April:**

- Donald & Janice Bench, Sr. 4/16
- Brad & Michelle Timbrook 4/19



**Remember, no storm lasts forever. Hold on. Be Brave, Have Faith! Every storm is temporary and we never face the storm alone. God is with us ALWAYS!!**

**April Gospel Readings...**

- April 4 - Mark 16: 1-8
- April 11- John 20: 19-31
- April 18 Luke 24: 36b-48
- April 25- John 10: 11-18

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**Pastoral Care...**

In the event of a need for pastoral support or care, please contact Pastor Jaci Tiell @ 419-215-8370 or pastorcacitiell@aol.com Thank you.

Thank you

The Valentine Love activity was successful with 4 dozen carnations being distributed. Also look for a Mother's Day and a Father's Day event upcoming. Ideas for COVID-safe events included Who's Who in the Pew, Parking Lot Bingo, Tail Gate party in the parking lot, and a Digital Scavenger Hunt.

We discussed how often to have congregational events and the possibility of a survey to see what people might be interested in. We will follow-up at subsequent meetings.

**Call Committee** – Reported by Amy Simkus – Final edits are being made to the Ministry Site Profile. It will be presented to council soon.

**Board of Witness and Mission** – Reported by Amy Simkus

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the Benevolence Survey. The top three results of the survey are as follows: Hunger and Nutrition, Veterans Support, Shelter and Homelessness.

**Board of Property** – Reported by Steve Simkus

\*A new sign has been installed in front of the church on Route 51. More letters will be purchased to gain the optimum use out of the space to share messages.

\*A motion was made by Gary, second Nancy to accept the following proposal for the bell tower bid. Motion carried. The motion is as follows:

**That the bid from Chime Master ([www.chimemaster.com](http://www.chimemaster.com)) to restore the Grace bell tower and bell to its original operating condition at a cost of \$5,100 (date of bid?) be submitted to the Grace Congregation for approval in accordance with the requirements of C12.05 of the Grace Constitution and Bylaw V, I to the Constitution;**

**That funding for this project be provided from the Grace Memorial Fund and any contributions received and dedicated to the bell tower project;**

**That a Congregational Meeting be called to take place after worship on Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of April to consider this proposal; and**

**That the Grace Board of Property and Congregation Council recommend approval by the Congregation.**

**Pastor's Report:** - Reported by Pastor Jaci

Work is in progress to prepare for Lenten Week Services, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday. Pastor is considering a Confirmation Service on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021.

A motion was made by Amy, second Randy to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hammel

Church Council Secretary

**WEEKLY OFFERING 2021**

Week 1	\$2,375.00	Week 2	\$2,207.00
Week 3	\$2,569.00	Week 4	\$9,917.00
Week 5	No worship	Week 6	\$7,769.00
Week 7	\$7,111.00	Week 8	\$1,490.00
Week 9	\$3,146.00	Week 10	\$2,913.00
Week 11	\$1,800.00	Week 12	\$3,069.00

**Total** \$44,366.00

**Needed from Offering for 2021** \$150,000 **Budget Gap** (\$105,634)  
**Weekly Goal** \$2,884 **Avg. Week** \$3,697



## ***God's Pursuit of Nastja***

This year, due to COVID, high schools have been doing classes online almost the entire year. As such, our high school ministry, SpeakOut, has not been going to the classes monthly as previously. But God is still moving both in finding new students digitally, and in students we had met with. One student from the school that I was working with, is Nastja. When she first started reading the Bible with our teammate Katie, she was curious to read what God's word says for herself. She had a religious background, but had gotten more caught up in new age beliefs and mentalities while in high school. But it was clear that God was pursuing her.

Nastja had some uncertainties she had about the cost of following Jesus, and for a year she and Katie met almost weekly to read the Bible. Nastja was hungry to understand more of God's character. She was seeing who He was for the first time, despite all the time she had spent around the church growing up. Then the summer came. The two of them still connected from time to time, as Katie reached out to her every week, but she felt distant. She had lost a hunger not just for God, but for life in general. Still, Katie cared for her deeply, and enjoyed talking with her, so she continued to reach out.

Seemingly out of the blue one week this fall, something had been reawaken in Nastja. She recognized that she had fallen away from God and she wanted that to change. Katie was blown away and encouraged when she thanked me for not giving up on her, for continuing to pursue her even when she was distant and disinterested. But Katie knew it was God who never stopped pursuing her and who had opened her eyes to see him as her Father and Savior.

Since then, Katie has seen Nastja fall in love with God hard and fast. Every week she has story after story to share about where she sees God as work in her heart, how she is choosing to follow Jesus, moments of sharing her faith with her friends and family, and stories of the freedom she has accepted from the sins and pain of her past, from her loving Father. And now it's time to celebrate and rejoice with the angels in heaven, that the Father has found his lost sheep! *Love, from Jay, Zina, and Ari Herman*

Continue to pray for Project 212, that God would keep leading us to new open students, students who are ready for the Gospel.

- Pray for Speak Out, that we would have wisdom about what our high school ministry looks like as we move forward, and how God can lead us to find spiritually open students.

-Pray for Toni and his girlfriend Lucija. The two of them continue to read the bible together, and are making prayer calendars to pray for their friends. Pray that God would use that to open a door in their friend's lives to start reading the bible with them.



## *Council President's Update*

This month's Council Report highlights our joy at once again being able to celebrate Easter Week worship services at Grace, this year in spite of covid limitations. We are also pleased to inform you about a new, affordable proposal to restore the bell tower that will be submitted to the congregation for approval.

**Easter Week Worship at Grace.** This year's annual cycle of Holy Week worship services occurred on the first four days of April. These services are always among our most meaningful worship experiences of the year. Each year as we go through Lent, we anticipate the meaningful events, terror, fear, grieving and mourning, and renewed joy that we experience during these services. Maundy Thursday commemorates Jesus' last supper with his disciples; the stripping of the altar that follows immerses us in the reality of Jesus' testing on Gethsemane, his betrayal, trial and execution. Good Friday and the nails of Jesus' agony on the cross let us feel Jesus' suffering. The Easter Vigil's scriptural readings about God's acts of deliverance during creation, escape through the Sea of Reeds (Exodus), resurrection in the valley of the dry bones and emergence from Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace are only a prelude to Mary Magdalene's announcement to the disciples that "***I have seen the (resurrected) Lord!***" Then we gather again on Easter morning to celebrate God's victory over death and His gift of grace for all of us.

**Grace Bell Tower Restoration.** In April 1980, the Grace congregation dedicated a bell tower and bell near the northeast corner of the sanctuary. The efforts of a Bell Tower Committee and the contributions of many families in the church made it happen. The new bell played memorable roles in worship, weddings and funerals. When the Fellowship Hall and educational rooms were added in 2001, the tower was moved to its present location. The bell continued to serve the people of Grace until 2016 when a lightning strike disabled the bell. Initial estimates to restore the bell's functioning were well in excess of \$10,000; that was much too costly, and everyone's hopes for restoration were put on hold.

A few weeks ago, the Board of Property renewed its efforts to find a solution. They contacted Chime Master (Lancaster, OH; [www.chimemaster.com](http://www.chimemaster.com)). A Chime Master technician evaluated the damage, and they submitted a bid of \$5,100 to restore the bell to its "original working condition." Funding for this project is available in the Grace Memorial Fund. This fund exists to support projects like this, and it has had a balance of over \$10,000 for several years. At its meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, the Grace Council approved a resolution recommending that this bid to restore the bell tower be accepted. Since the bid exceeds the Constitutional limit of \$5,000 for expenditures not included in the annual budget, the Council has called for a Congregational Meeting after worship on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April where it can be approved.

The Grace bell tower was erected and used in worship where it served as a memorial to many past and current members of Grace as a symbol and audible sign of our congregation's faith and gratitude to God. The Council and Board of Property both recommend congregational approval so the bell tower restoration can be completed.



*Gary Anderson*

Council President

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### ***April Board Meetings...***

Council: April 8, 2021 @ 7:00pm via ZOOM

Witness & Mission: April 13, 2021 @ 4:00pm

Property Board: April 15, 2021 @ 5:30pm Fellowship Hall

Worship Board: April 15, 2021 @ 7:00 pm via ZOOM

Congregational Life: April 22, 2021 @ 7:00pm via ZOOM. If anyone would like to attend please contact Mary Schlievert for the zoom link. (419)-350-1134 or [mschlievert2@gmail.com](mailto:mschlievert2@gmail.com)



# April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>www.shutterstock.com · 1659822598</p>				1  7:00pm - Maundy Thursday Worship Service Parking Lot	2  7:00pm- Good Friday Worship Service Parking Lot  	3  7:00pm Easter Vigile (VIRTUAL)
4 <b>EASTER DAY</b>  10:00am Parking Lot Worship  	5	6  11:30—Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution	7	8  11:30—Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution  7:00pm- Council ZOOM Meeting	9	10
11 <b>Easter 2</b>  10:00am Parking Lot Worship  6:30pm-Boy Scouts Fellowship Hall	12	13  11:30—Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution  4:00pm- Witness & Mission Meeting	14	15  11:30—Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution  5:30pm - Property Bd Fellowship Hall 7:00pm—Worship Board Meeting via ZOOM	16  9:00 - Noon <b>FOOD PANTRY</b>	17  9:00 - Noon <b>FOOD PANTRY</b>  Timbrook Fellowship Hall
18 <b>Easter 3</b>  10:00am Parking Lot Worship	19	20  <b>DEADLINE for PARISH REPORTER</b>  11:30—Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution	21	22  11:30—Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution  7:00pm—via ZOOM Congregational Life Meeting  	23	24
25 <b>Easter 4</b>  10:00am Parking Lot Worship  6:30pm-Boy Scouts Fellowship Hall	26	27  11:30—Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution	28	29  11:30—Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution	30  <b>April's Food Pantry Item</b>  <b>toilet paper, any size package</b>	