

God Is With You

Although each day brings challenges and things that are unknown. You needn't face them by yourself or deal with them alone: For others care about you and will keep you close in prayer. And, above all. God will guide you -for His love is always there.

Emily Matthews

Board Meetings...

Property Board... Steve Simkus is planning to have a Property Board meeting on Thursday, May 6 at 5:30pm. In the Fellowship Hall.

Witness & Mission... Amy Simkus is planning to have a Witness & Mission Board meeting on May 11 via ZOOM at 4:00 pm.

Pray, then let it go. Don't try and manipulate or force the outcome. Just trust God to open the right doors at the right time. Amen

May Gospel Readings...

May 2	John 15: 1-8
May 9	John 15: 9-17
May 16	John 17: 6-19
May 23	John 15 26-27, 16: 4b-15
May 30	John 3: 1-17



From the Pastor...

The month of May is always an exciting time of year. The month of May brings an end to the school year and the start to summer for many area schools. The month of May includes many reasons to celebrate and causes to raise awareness. This year more than past years we've been hearing a lot about teacher appreciation day or week. Then there's Cinco De Mayo, Mother's Day and Memorial Day. May is also national military appreciation month, mental health awareness month and national foster care month. All of which are important reasons to raise awareness in this community and beyond. And in the church calendar we have the exciting opportunity to celebrate Pentecost!! We have so many things to celebrate and look forward to this year.

With mental health awareness month there are often opportunities that offer education and awareness. Mental health issues do not discriminate and can affect people of all ages, races and social status. The local NAMI National Alliance on Mental Illness provides services to people with mental illness and their families. During covid some area NAMI communities are offering online support groups to be able to connect with others. There are also some opportunities for in person meetings as well. NAMI is a great resource in the community for education, support and to combat the stigma around mental health issues.

This year Grace is excited to have the privilege to confirm three young people. Lilian Myers was confirmed on May 1st and Brady Buhrow and Eve Jackson will be confirmed on May 23rd which is Pentecost Sunday. We give thanks to God for all three of these young people and look forward to their continued participation in the body of Christ. On May 23rd we will also have a socially distanced Parking Lot Picnic which will include yummy food from some food trucks. Please join us to celebrate and have fellowship with one another!!

In Christ,

Pastor Jaci

If you have any pastoral care needs or prayer requests please let me know. You can reach me by phone at 419-215-8370 or email at pastorjaciell@aol.com



Thank You...

...from Lutheran Social Services.. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous gift of \$400.00 to benefit LSS Ministries. Your support helps support our ministries and programming.

Items Grace is collecting for Missions...

Greeting cards –Luther Home of Mercy

Christian literature for Christian Resources International

Wrapped bath bar soap - LWR

Miller's New Market receipts for Grace's Youth, Camp, Travel Fund

Quilt fabrics and clothing

Miller's Receipts...

For those of you who have faithfully brought in your Miller's Receipts, Grace received a check for \$47.07. This money has been designated for the Youth, Camp & Travel Fund. Thank You **KEEP SHOPPING!!**

Calm your mind and listen for God's still, small voice in the midst of the tumult around you.

Find time to pray and connect with God

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 President's Update...

This month's Council Report comes as we are already one-third of the way through 2021. Worship attendance is running ahead of recent years. Offerings have averaged \$3,422 per week, which is above our 2021 budget target of \$2,885 per week. We are doing well thanks to the personal and financial support we receive from Grace's members. Last month, we completed our Lenten journey, experienced deeply meaningful Holy Week services and celebrated the Easter triumph. In May, you can look forward to these events and activities:

Pentecost Sunday Plans (May 23rd). Pentecost commemorates the arrival of the Holy Spirit among Jesus' followers in Jerusalem, just as Jesus promised before his ascension (Acts 1:8). This year, Pentecost at Grace will be more than a "*wear red to church*" Sunday. In addition to scripture, sermon and worship about the extraordinary events in Acts 2, two young Grace members (Brady Buhrow and Eve Jackson) will be confirmed, and worship will be followed by a Pentecost Picnic. If the bell tower restoration proceeds according to plan, there will also be a bell tower rededication.

Covid restrictions make traditional potlucks inadvisable now, but two commercial food trucks have agreed to be at Grace after worship to provide food for the Pentecost Picnic (*be sure to bring cash*). Pentecost 2021 will be a unique fellowship event; the first our members will have enjoyed since covid restrictions began 14 months ago. Plan to come for the worship, confirmation and bell tower rededication and to remain for the Pentecost Picnic. We will still be outside where it is safe. Bring your lawn chairs, purchase some food and enjoy this opportunity to share fellowship with other members. Detailed Pentecost plans are published in recent **Weekly Messages**.

Bell Tower Restoration. The Congregational Meeting on the 18th of April unanimously approved the Board of Property's proposal to expend \$5,100 of Memorial Fund money to restore the Grace bell tower to its original operating condition. Contracts to do this work were concluded the following week. Chime Master staff is now scheduled to be at Grace on the 11th of May to complete the project.

Future Worship Plans at Grace. Grace's **Weekly Message** on 29 April included a detailed report on recent Council and Board of Worship discussions regarding "*when it will be safe and desirable for Grace to return to worship in the sanctuary*." These discussions have so far concluded that Sunday worship at Grace should remain outdoors, perhaps until most of our members are vaccinated and covid restrictions are lifted so that indoor worship can be conducted in a normal way. These discussions note that the covid situation in Ottawa County is still **VERY HIGH RISK**. They have also led to an important conclusion: Outdoor worship at Grace is fulfilling a unique set of needs for several members who would not feel safe worshipping indoors as well as for visitors who don't feel safe or comfortable worshipping indoors or virtually in their home churches. The Board of Worship report highlighted how outdoor worship at Grace is "**inclusive**" worship where we can all worship together with those who feel extra precautions are necessary in this dangerous time.

We should remember, "***For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.***" (Matt. 18:20). Jesus is present in the parking lot or wherever we gather to worship him.

Gary Anderson

Council President

Get in Touch with Grace...

www.graceelconline.org is our web site. Check out the new site. 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. Got a prayer request? Email it to the address above or call the office and leave a message. 419-862-3630.

+ + +

May Birthdays

Joan Dietrich	1
Michael Stewart	2
Cathy Lajti	3
Jeanne Haar	4
Merlyn Weng	10
Michael Ford	11
Matthew Haar	12
Douglas Haar	13
Mark Haar	16
Robin Blausey	17
Krista Jackson	19
Shannon Ladd	20
Clifton Lajti	20
Theo Jackson	21
Linda Jacobs	28
David Wietelmann	28
Madelyn Hille	31

Happy Birthday to everyone!!

Happy Anniversary

William & Patricia Shaffer
May 14

Alan & Connie Wolfe
May 14

Please notify the office with anyone that we may have missed, so we can update our records.
Thank You !!!!

WEEKLY OFFERING

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
Week 13	\$952.00	Week 14	\$3,440.35
Week 15	\$2,579.00	Week 16	\$1,987.00
Week 17	\$1,432.00		

Total \$54,756.35

Needed from Offering for 2021 \$150,000 **Budget Gap** (\$95,243.65)
Weekly Goal \$2,884 **Avg. Week** \$3,221



The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation". The president is required by law to sign a proclamation each year, en-

The First Amendment to our Constitution protects the rights of free speech and religious liberty, including the right of all Americans to **pray**. ... On this **National Day of Prayer**, we unite with purpose and resolve, and recommit ourselves to the core freedoms that helped define and guide our Nation from its earliest days.

On April 17, 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming the **National Day of Prayer** into law in the United States. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, designating the first Thursday of May each year as the **National Day of Prayer**. The **National Prayer-er Committee** **was** formed in the United States in 1972.

The **National Day of Prayer** takes place on Thursday, based on the scriptural **theme**: 2 Corinthians 3:17 "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

A fun way to **organize** the **day** is to start by praying together as a group and asking the Lord to lead you to the right people, and then praying with people as you feel led. It will be awkward, but people are often grateful that someone would care enough to **pray** with them.



Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes **April 8, 2021**

The Grace Lutheran Church Council met on April 8, at 7 pm via zoom. Members present were: Karen Hammel, Mary Schlievert, Gary Anderson, Randy Jacobs, Deb Boos, Nancy Pries, Amy Simkus, Steve Simkus, Pastor Jaci, and guest, Joyce Bruntz.

The meeting was brought to order by Gary Anderson. Pastor Jaci opened the meeting with prayer. Bobbie, Rachel and Pastor Jaci were thanked for their efforts in making Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday services meaningful.

The March 11, 2021 council minutes were approved. The March Financial report was approved. A decision was made to eliminate the envelope designated for Easter offering.

Board of Property – Reported by Steve Simkus

- *The Fellowship Hall Policy was approved. At this time, CDC Guidelines will be followed when the hall is being used.
- * There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 18 to address the repair of the bell tower.
- *A spring clean-up date will be announced after the April 15th Board of Property meeting.
- *Discussion continued concerning in-person worship. Protocol for set-up, cleaning, and sanitizing will need to be determined.

Board of Worship – Submitted by Rachel Beeler

- *Thank you to all who assisted with Holy Week services!
- *Special anthems (selected by Bobbie) will continue through the end of May.
- *Board of Worship will re-evaluate the worship format for the summer months as restrictions begin to lift.
- *Beginning in April, Holy Communion will be served at every service.
- *The next Board of Worship meeting will be on Thursday, April 15 at 7 pm via zoom.

Board of Witness and Mission – Reported by Amy Simkus

- *Thank you for the overwhelming support for our Lenten Project, ELCA Good Gifts. Our congregation collected \$1914. That is enough money to purchase over twelve Fruit Tree Farms to be put in impoverished communities around the world.

Board of Education – Reported by Nancy Pries

- *Council approved to make Lutheran Memorial Camp deposit for Brady Buhrow.
- *Brady Buhrow and Eve Jackson will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday.

Pastor's Report – Reported by Pastor Jaci

- *Conducted the funeral service for Vera Hille
- *Preparations are being made for the Confirmation Service of Brady Buhrow and Eve Jackson on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021.

The next council meeting will be held on May 13, 2021 at 7 pm via zoom.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hammel, Council Secretary

Recognition of Graduates...

Grace would like to congratulate the three graduates from our congregation.

Colin Duncan son of Tammie and Shawn Duncan will graduate from Clay High School on June 6, 2021. His plans for next year are to attend college at Hocking and major in Natural Law Enforcement.

Heather Ladd is the daughter of Shannon Ladd. She will be finishing her schooling with Ohio Connections Academy on May 13, 2021. She will later this fall be attending a trade school to become a Farrier.

Hannah Timbrook is the daughter of Michelle and Brad Timbrook. Hannah will be graduating from Woodmore High School on June 6, 2021. Hannah is in the top 10% of her class and was invited to the Top Ten Banquet. The banquet was canceled because of COVID protocols. She plans to attend Bowling Green State University in the fall and major in Business Marketing.

Congratulations and God Bless !

Grace Lutheran High School Scholarship

Grace has a Scholarship Fund that provides scholarships for high school seniors who are selected by the committee. 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 for an application or request one from the church secretary by May 15, 2021

Raising A Prayer Resistance... from Zina & Jay Herman

“...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” - 2 Corinthians 4:4 -

In Slovenia this reality of spiritual darkness and the blindness of students is especially felt. And not only felt, but here in Ljubljana there is even a physical reminder of the darkness and oppression that once captured this place. During World War II the Axis powers swept across the entire country of Slovenia, and as local resistance movements sprung up in and around the capital, the occupying forces built an over 19 mile long barbed wire fence which encircled Ljubljana. Their goal was to stop the flow of information and weapons between resistance groups inside and outside of the city. The path of this fence can be walked in its entirety still today, now known as the Trail of Remembrance, still dotted with bunkers, and scars from this dark period of history.

In the same way the enemy has wrapped the hearts and minds of many people here in Slovenia so tightly with lies that they cannot see or know the truth. Each day we see the general apathy among students, and a complacency with life without God, but even darker we know Slovenia has one of the highest rates of suicide per capita in the world. But God is at work here, and we know that it is Him alone that can shine light in the darkness, free those captured by the enemy, and we know that he uses the prayers of his people to do it. In this we would like to ask for your help. As a team we are trusting God to mobilize the greater body of Christ to be praying for specific people each week in Slovenia. If you'd like to be even more involved in this prayer resistance effort, we would love to share more about it with you. To do so, please reply to this email and I will share how you can join us. Your prayers, partnership, and encouragement are so significant to us, and it's a privilege to serve the Lord with you as He moves here in Slovenia.

This summer we are planning to be stateside! We are excited as this will be the first time for our US family to meet Ari! We will also finally receive Zina's green card after over two years of working through the process. She has applied and been accepted to join Cru US staff and this summer she will have a training for being on US staff. We will return to Slovenia in September.

While being in US we also hope to spend some time meeting with as many of our ministry partners as possible either in person or virtually to catch up with you, share ministry news and, as possible, to introduce Little Ari to you! As of now we are planning to fly to US in late May and hoping to meet up with ministry partners from Ohio in June - July and in August to travel to Texas. Some dates might change but we will keep in touch with you about it. We are so thankful for your role in our lives and ministry and look forward to meeting with you.



Senior Citizen Meals.

Ottawa County Senior Resources provides lunches to senior citizens (age 60 or over) in the Elmore area that can be picked up at Grace on Tuesdays and Thursday or can be provided through home delivery. Requests may be submitted by phone: 419-898-6459. The meals are free, but there is a suggested donation of \$3 per meal.

May's Food Pantry Item

**for Grace is
Deodorant Soap
(bath size bars)**

God Cares For People Through People

Pastoral Care...

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

Deacons for May...

5/2	Mary & Mike Schlievert
5/9	Jean & Merlyn Weng
5/16	Joan Eckermann & Randy Jacobs
5/23	Deb & Jeff Boos
5/30	Rachel Beeler & Dave Wietelmann

Benevolence Highlight: The Cocoon

May is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The organization wants to acknowledge the prevalence of survivors striving for healing in our community and the strength it takes to share their story and let others know they are not alone.

The Cocoon provides critical services to those in need 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Survivors can reach one of the staff advocates at all hours and are provided compassionate, knowledgeable and life-saving support.

- 1) When a survivor shows up at a courthouse and is terrified to file for a Civil Protection Order but wants to do everything to keep herself safe, the advocates show up and walk through every step of the process and help to set up a safety plan.
- 2) When a survivor goes to a hospital and discloses that he/she has been sexually assaulted, an advocate arrives to help him/her with options and ensure they have the support they need.
- 3) When a survivor calls and shares that her trafficker just slammed her against the wall, threatened to kill her and she needs to leave but has no where to go, an advocate opens the shelter doors and welcomes her in a safe place to heal.
- 4) All of these services and more are offered at no cost to the survivor. Safety is essential for a community to thrive, and The Cocoon is committed to helping all who suffer abuse.


During this last year The Cocoon assisted 747 survivors, including 116 survivors of sexual violence—11% of whom are survivors of sex trafficking. For more information go to: the.cocoon.org/donate or call (419) 373-1730 Ext 1002

Quote to Ponder...

"The spectacular thing about Scripture, is that, like no other book held in human hands, its ink may be dry but it is the furthest thing from dead. The words are alive and active, and the Holy Spirit who inspired them can animate the most familiar passage and spring it to fresh life in your soul."

- Beth Moore

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution		11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution		1
2 Fifth Sunday of Easter 10:00am - Parking Lot Worship 6:30pm– Boy Scouts Fellowship Hall	3	4 11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution	5	6 11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution 5:30pm - Property Bd Meeting	7	8 
9 Sixth Sunday of Easter 10:00am - Parking Lot Worship Mother's Day 	10	11 11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution 4:30pm - Witness & Mission Meeting via ZOOM	12	13 11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution	14 9:00-Noon - Food Pantry	15 9:00-Noon - Food Pantry
16 Seventh Sunday of Easter 10:00 am - Parking Lot Worship Deadline for Geraniums 6:30pm– Boy Scouts Fellowship Hall	17	18 DEADLINE FOR PARISH REPORTER 11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution	19	20 11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution	21	22
23 Day of Pentecost 10:00am - Parking Lot Worship/ Confirmation & Picnic 6:30pm– Boy Scouts Fellowship Hall	24	25 11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution	26	27 11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution	28	29
30 The Holy Trinity 10:00am - Parking Lot Worship 6:30pm– Boy Scouts Fellowship Hall	31 	11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution		