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# Grace and Truth

Grace Lutheran Church - Fremont, Ohio  
April 2020

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**We will tread,  
we will serve,  
we will rise!  
We are the people of God!**

**We are Faithful.  
We are Resilient.  
We are Kind, and...  
We are Strong!**

**We are in this together!**

**WE are the Church!**

# A message of Hope

## Psalm 121

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

As we are all in this coronavirus pandemic together, I would like to invite each of you to take a moment. Pause. Breathe. Stop what you are doing and take a moment of silence for yourselves. Stop a moment and offer a prayer to God. Remember that you are a child of God...loved and cared for by the Almighty Lord!

Interpreters of Psalm 121 have us imagine a traveler about to depart on a journey -- perhaps a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for a festival, or perhaps any journey. Such a question is a natural -- whether one is thinking of a geographic journey through dangerous territory, a lifelong journey through many ups and downs, or a spiritual journey to discovery seeking a homecoming to God.

Life is full of many dangers...like us today facing the Coronavirus together. The physical: disease or suffering. The economic: recession, depression or unemployment. The spiritual: doubt, sin or evil.

"Where does my help come from?" The psalmist answers the question with a confession of faith: "My help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth."

I invite you to open your Bible and read Psalm 121. It is filled with promises. What does God promise to do? God promises to keep you. God will guard you as you go on your journey of life, and as you return home. As you go out and come in. As you face the dangers of the day and of the night.

The list of promises here is not meant to suggest that those who walk in the shelter of God will face no harm. The Psalter knows all too well that evil is everywhere.

These promises are the sort of things that the Lord does for those who rely on him. And the words of blessing and promise evoke God's protection and our awareness of it.

We do not know when this pandemic will be over, but we can rest assured that we have all of God's promises and love. Take a moment and bless each other or yourself, make the sign of the cross and say, "The Lord will keep you going out and your coming in, from this time on and forevermore."

*Pastor Jody*

## **YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!**

As you can see, this newsletter is a little trimmed down: no Events page, no Calendar/Schedule. As of today, the current Coronavirus health emergency has us in lock-down until April 6. So, for now, we are not going to talk about events, because we are not sure they will happen. Please, bear with us, and as time goes on and our world becomes a little more normal, we will again be able to gather together.

**NOTE: We are doing our best to keep everyone informed. If you have e-mail and are not receiving Grace news blasts, please send me your e-mail so I can add you to the list! Contact me at: [gracefremont@yahoo.com](mailto:gracefremont@yahoo.com) Thank you!**

Linda Baumer

Office/Financial Administrator

## **THEY ARE STILL HERE!**

Even though we are not gathering weekly for a while, the staff of Grace Lutheran Church continues to work on your behalf. Pastor Jody, Maureen and Heather are working from home. Sermons can be written, Bible studies prepared, calls to our members, planning for future events...all from home!

Jim Post and Greg Kinsey are performing a deep cleaning of the church. We want to be clean and ready when we are able to return. Tom Curry continues to practice and work on the huge library of music we have.

Linda and Tricia are holding down the fort...so to speak. Since the office is now closed, they will work in and out of the office to ensure day to day business gets handled.

Grace Lutheran Church needs our support. Even though we are not there, the staff continues to work on our behalf. Please continue to give... there are options for us now. You may make your donations by:

- Simply Giving - This is an automatic donation from your personal checking or savings account. Call Linda in the church office if you would like to set this up.
- Give Plus - A new donation button on our website, [gracefremont.org](http://gracefremont.org). Just click on the button and follow the instructions. Again, any questions please call Linda.
- Mail your offering donations to the church office.
- Drop your gift off through the mail slot in the office door.

During these uncertain times what can we rely on? The Lord...who loves us and promises never to leave us. We are blessed people. Continue to pray for healing. Read Scripture for words of hope.

Ed Muffler, Council President

### **A prayer from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton:**

*God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to healthcare workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## FINANCIAL REPORT

**General Fund**  
As of FEBRUARY 2020

	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>2019 Actual</u>
Year to date receipts:	79,964	84,691	66,643
Year to date expenses:	<u>102,365</u>	<u>111,428</u>	<u>80,944</u>
Receipts less expenses:	(22,401)	(26,737)	(14,301)

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Morris  
Financial Assistant

March 9, 2020

Church Council meeting was short and sweet this month. We discussed Capital Campaign, Building projects, etc. But now that we are in the days of the Coronavirus health emergency, all those conversations are irrelevant for the moment. So, for now, our focus will be on being church together outside of these four walls.

## ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER ... ACT BY MARCH 31

Did you know that as a Thrivent member you accumulate charitable outreach funds (Thrivent Choice Dollars) based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership? Grace Lutheran has been the recipient of Choice Dollars through member designations. It's easy to direct your dollars. Log on to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) and log in to your account or create an account. Go to "My Thrivent" and "Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars" to see how much you have accumulated. You are able to direct those dollars to a non-profit organization. Grace Lutheran is already listed. Dollars must be directed yearly by March 31.



**THRIVENT**  
FINANCIAL®

*Connecting faith & finances for good.™*

*Sorry* **EVENT**  
**CANCELLED**

We are sorry to report that our Spring Fundraiser scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2020 has been cancelled. The committee will meet as soon as we are able to determine

if and when we might be able to host an event. Details will be shared once we know. Please stay tuned!

For those of you who purchased tickets, please call the church office to make arrangements for your refund. We are very sorry for any inconvenience.

# LOCAL MISSIONS

## **NOISY OFFERING: Please hold onto your loose coins until we meet again!**

Second quarter (April - June) Noisy Offering collections will be donated to LIFT AWAY HUNGER.

The March collection totaled \$159.68 which was included in the first quarter collection donated to support the English as a Second language classes offered by Comino de Vida.

## **FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE:** for the month of April, we will collect canned tuna and canned veggies. **While the church office is closed, please take your items directly to the Food Pantry located in the Share & Care building. Food Pantry hours are M - F, 12noon to 2:30pm**

Thanks to your generosity, in March we were able to donate four boxes to the Sandusky County Food Pantry and two boxes to the Bridge of Hope Food Pantry. Thank you!



During this time while we are under the Order to Stay at Home, you can still stay connected!

***Mornings with Mo*** - Join Maureen every morning at 8 a.m. for a Facebook Live. Grab your favorite morning beverage and start your day in a positive way as she addresses a new topic each morning.

***You can find Maureen on Facebook at Maureen McClure Pump***

***Bible Study with Maureen*** -Thursdays at 1pm, join in on a prayer study via Zoom.

***For details on how to connect with Zoom for this Bible study, contact Maureen at maureenpump@yahoo.com***

***Devotions with Pr. Jody*** - Wednesday evenings at 7:11 p.m. via Live Stream on Facebook.

***Worship Service with Pr. Jody*** - Sundays at 9 a.m. via Live Stream on Facebook.

***You can find Pr. Jody's live streams on Facebook at Fremont Grace Lutheran***



# Sharing God's Bounty

## Whom Are You Looking At?

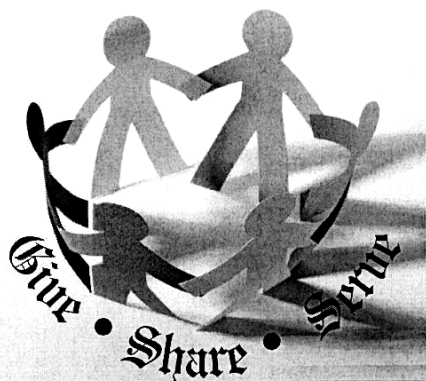
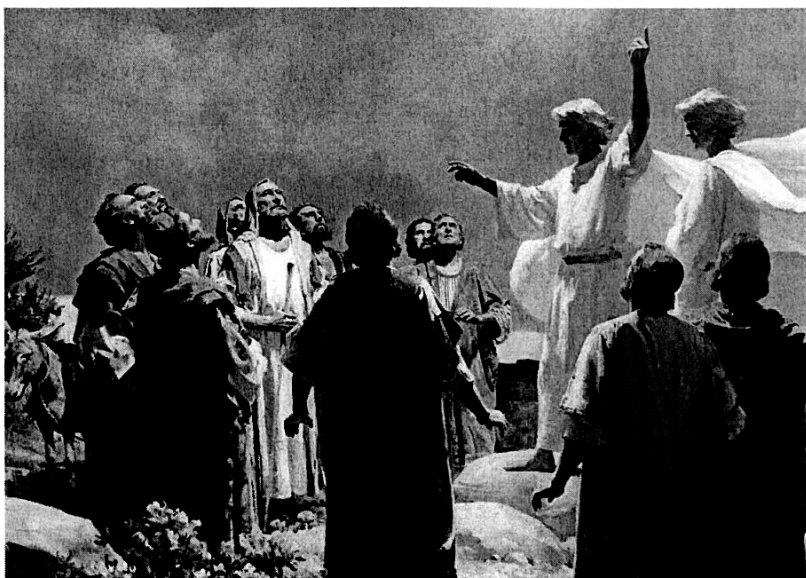
The disciples were thrilled. They had their Lord back in their presence once again. Since his Resurrection, he had appeared to them and others several times. They were still a little confused, though, when he talked about *"waiting for the gift his Father promised"* (Acts 1:5), and, then, *"He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight"* (Acts 1:9).

You can imagine their bewilderment. He had died and been buried and then had risen from the dead! He had walked among them and taught them again, and now . . . He is taken up into the clouds. No wonder they stood there – probably with mouths agape – looking into the sky where they had last seen him.

It took "two men dressed in white" (Acts 1:10) to bring them back to their senses. " 'Men of Galilee,' " they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into Heaven' " (Acts 1:11).

Back they went to Jerusalem. Their eyes were no longer on the clouds, but they were still looking at Jesus. They waited. They prayed. They chose another disciple. And they waited some more – all the while looking at Jesus.

Whom are you looking at? Yes, Jesus has ascended. We can only imagine his joyful, triumphant return as all the hosts of Heaven welcomed back the risen, victorious Savior. Because he is that Savior, because he is the Author and perfecter of our faith, *"let us fix our eyes on Jesus"* (Hebrews 12:2). Through his Word and Sacraments, he will lead us in his ways; he will teach us obedience and self-sacrifice; he will teach us love for our neighbors. With joyful and generous hearts, we celebrate the new life that Easter brings us by sharing the message of the Cross and the Empty Tomb with all who will listen. Keep looking at Jesus until in Heaven you see him face to face!



*Stewardship is not about large giving, but gifts in small ways. A child's gift, although small, gives glory to the Lord in many ways. Stewardship does not have to be in monetary ways. A gift of time to an elderly shut-in serves the Lord, too. A gift of a loaf of bread to a homeless family could mean the difference between going to bed hungry or going to bed satisfied.*

# in **YOUTH** **Action**

**FIRST COMMUNION UPDATE** - First communion training is being canceled for the time being. Booklets will be mailed to you. A shorter training session will be announced when we are all able to meet again. If you have any questions you may contact Heather Hawn by email at Heather-RHawn@gmail.com Thank you for your patience.

## WANTED



**2 Liter Bottles**

Washed and labels removed  
Need approx. 200 for VBS in August 2020



**Lunch Meat Containers**

Organization of craft supplies & projects. All sizes and varieties. Please wash & remove labels.



**Plastic Lids**

Need to make control panels at VBS. All sizes and varieties are welcome. Milk, pop, laundry, shampoo, anything with a flat bottom. Please wash.

All items may be dropped off at the Sunday School Office. Please Wash before donating.

Thanks!

**CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT** - This year the confirmation youth are collecting items for and volunteering as a group at the Sandusky County Humane Society. The following Wish List items are being collected & can be brought to the church office: Fancy Feast canned kitten food, 13 gallon trash bags, Pill Pockets Cat & Dog, Purina Cat Chow Naturals, HE laundry detergent, new cat & dog toys, puppy training pads, Pedigree canned dog food, Fabuloso, bleach, brooms, postage stamps, paper towels, dryer sheets, monetary donations for vet bills (please write Humane Society on your monetary donation). Thank you for your support!

**SUMMER MISSION TRIP** - Is your child looking to make an impact on the world? Join us for a week in West Virginia serving at a work camp July 19 - 25. All youth ages 12 - 20 are invited. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required to save your spot. Please contact Heather Hawn for more details. Deadline to sign up will be April 19.

## GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Grace Lutheran Church oversees **two (2)** scholarship funds which are available to active members of Grace Lutheran Church who are currently enrolled or have been accepted at a college or university.

- **The Tressel Memorial Scholarship** is awarded to individuals who are majoring in ordained ministry, parish work, music ministry, Christian day school teacher, lay ministry, youth ministry, medical missionary, or any other fields of Christian service. This fund is also available to students attending Capital University as a Partner in Education (stipulations apply).
- **Grace Lutheran Church General Scholarship** - Applicants must be active members of Grace Lutheran Church, and currently enrolled or accepted in a college or university. No degree requirements needed.

*Please note: Applicants will only receive one scholarship from one of the above funds.*

Applications are available in the church office or online at [www.gracefremont.org](http://www.gracefremont.org). **The deadline for submittal to the church office is MAY 1, 2020.** If you have any questions, please call the church office, 419-332-1558.

If you would like to contribute to any of these scholarship funds, you can do so through the church office or by using a white pew envelope and marking it 'Tressel Memorial', or 'GLC General Scholarship'.

# LIFT NEWS

LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER

## LIFT DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH SNAPSHOT - April 2020

Nearly three years ago I wrestled with how to close my e-mails and other correspondence. I felt like “blessings” was too generic and perhaps not professional enough for some of the e-mails exchanged with community leaders outside of the church. I was then trying to craft something specific for each person, but quickly discovered that was taking too much time and my backspace button would likely wear away from overuse. Somehow the spirit led me to consider that what I wanted to convey was a partnership together and that an end point was unlikely to ever be achieved—*with you on the journey*. As we continue to navigate these uncertain days as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, I have come to recognize that “with you on the journey” is more than a closure to correspondence. It is a way for us all to consider caring for one another and recognizing that by joining with one another we can navigate the unknown journey before us all. While many of us are working remotely know that I will remain available via social media, the LIFT Facebook page, sharing a reflection in the weekly devotional e-mail sent on Thursday afternoons, direct e-mail ([pamkensler@gmail.com](mailto:pamkensler@gmail.com)) and voice/text at 630-962-1210. May we all join with one another on this journey!

With you on the journey,  
Pam K.

**LIFT'S BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY** (located at Hayes Memorial UMC 1441 Fangboner Rd) will be closed until further notice. If you have interest in supporting the food pantry whether with material or financial donations or volunteering your time, please feel free to e-mail [liftparishllc@gmail.com](mailto:liftparishllc@gmail.com). *Watch for updates made to Bridge of Hope operations via the LIFT Facebook page as changes are happening at a rapid pace.*

## THANK YOU

Dear Members of Grace Lutheran,

Thank you for your partnership in the Ministry of Lutheran Social Services, for your thoughtful prayers and your monetary sponsorship. You are a blessing to those we serve.

Most sincerely,  
Terri Rodriguez

## LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

Dear Grace friends,

I would love to hear from you. My new address is:

3550 Fishinger Blvd., Apt. 126  
Hilliard, OH 43026

I hope to hear from you soon.  
Judy Koebel

Dear Grace Lutheran,

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Sandusky County Food Pantry.



# APRIL BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating 75 years and more!*

April 5	Judith Burkett	792 Rambo Ln.
April 7	Pat Bristley	412 S. Jefferson St.
April 7	Barbara Schmitz	2999 N. St. Rt. 19
April 8	Nancy Souder	1459 Buckland Ave.
April 10	Kenneth Rosenberger	230 Bougainvillea Ln. Parish FL 34219
April 13	Henry Breyman	5901 N. Genoa Clay Center Rd., Genoa
April 13	Kenneth Smith	15 Westwood Dr.
April 15	Nancy Roddy	621 Memorial Pkwy.
April 15	Sharon Zilles	1221 South St.
April 19	Lorna Garn	1702 N. Union St., Fostoria
April 19	Betty Jo Sherman	19380 Artzheim Ln., Elmore
April 22	Grace Clulow	1064 Hazel St.
April 24	LaMar Garner	140 Thomas Dr.
April 26	Suzanne Brickner	1501 McPherson Blvd.
April 27	Paul Thatcher	912 E. Perry St., Port Clinton

## Happy Anniversary

*To those couples celebrating 50 or more years of wedded bliss!*

April 7, 1961 - Terrance & Shirley Shanahan  
 April 15, 1962 - Eugene & Nancy Mills  
 April 19, 1964 - Roger & Patricia Otermat  
 April 23, 1960 - Robert & Joyce Wickert  
 April 25, 1959 - Pr. Jim & Linda Avers  
 April 28, 1956 - Marvin & Marlene Mullholand  
 April 30, 1965 - James & Nancy Gruver

### RECEIVING THE GIFT OF HOLY BAPTISM

March 8 - *Lakyn Leigh Hershey*, daughter of Matthew & Stephanie Hershey

### New Babies

February 29 - *Zachary Howard King*, son of Matthew & Veronica King



**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15.**

*The newsletter will be assembled on Thursday, April 23.*

## With Sympathy

Bunny Brooks	Karen Rice
Steven Frasure	Jeanette
Pat Garza	Schneider
Ann Hull	Steven Sieberg
Donna Imler	Helen Zilles

### BEST WISHES TO THE NEWLYWEDS

February 22 - *Derek & Michele (Senn) King*

### New Members

March 1 - *Robert and Joy James*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Jody Rice, Senior Pastor  
jjrice2002@yahoo.com  
Maureen Pump, Lay Associate Minister  
maureenpump@yahoo.com  
Linda Baumer, Office/Financial Administrator  
gracefremont@yahoo.com  
Tricia Dabrunz, Secretary/Receptionist  
dabrunztricia@yahoo.com  
Heather Hawn, Youth Minister ~ Middle/High School  
heatherrhawn@gmail.com  
Tricia McElfresh, Director, Noah's Ark Preschool  
noahs\_ark\_fremont@yahoo.com  
Tom Curry, Director of Music,  
musicatgracelutheran@yahoo.com

## Worship Services and Sunday School

Saturday 5:00pm ~ Traditional Worship

Sunday

8:00am ~ Adult Sunday School

9:00am ~ Worship/Holy Communion

9:00am ~ Pre-K ~ 5th grade Sunday School  
*(at a designated time during worship)*



## Grace Lutheran Church

705 West State Street  
Fremont, OH 43420

Return Service Requested

Office Hours – 9:00am-4:00pm, M-Th  
9:00 a.m.-1:00p.m., F

Phone: 419-332-1558

E-mail: [gracefremont@yahoo.com](mailto:gracefremont@yahoo.com)

Web page: [www.gracefremont.org](http://www.gracefremont.org)

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