Grace & Truth MARCH 2024



Prepare for the Great Entrance!

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Grace Lutheran Church

Church Office Hours – 9:00am-4:00pm, M-Th 9:00am–1:00pm, F

Phone: 419-332-1558

E-mail:

gracefremont@yahoo.com

Web page:

www.gracefremont.org

Grace Stories



I WANT TO BE A MISSIONARY!

"I want to be a missionary!" These were the words spoken by 12-year-old Becky Seibert after hearing a missionary speak at her church, Church of the Brethren. Becky is the sixth of eight children. Even as a child Becky has had an appreciation for family and the blessing of being close to family as Becky's family all lived on the same road. That made it easy for Becky to attend church every Sunday with her grandparents. She participated in VBS, helped in the kitchen and helped the Ladies Aid group make quilts. But the day Becky heard the missionary speak, a fire was ignited in her to be a missionary.

As we all know, life often gets in the way of our callings and at the same time brings blessings. When Becky married Pastor Henry in 2000, they blended her 2 sons and Henry's 2 daughters into one family. Becky became a pastor's wife, but the desire to be a missionary was still there.

At the time Becky and Pastor Henry married he was serving as the Associate Pastor at St. John's Lutheran church in Bellevue. Becky had found a family there. So, when Pastor Henry went into intentional interim ministry, Becky said to him, we need a congregation. That brought them to Grace.

At first Grace seemed too big to Becky and she didn't like it here. But she knew how important it is to get involved and begin to know people and begin to develop that feeling of family. She joined the bell choir, attended Bible study, and helped with Altar guild. But even though she was serving in several areas here at Grace and beginning to feel like a member of this family, there was always that desire to be a missionary.

Becky has made 12 missionary trips to Africa and has received the support of this church family in numerous ways. Whether Becky is promoting a trip by dressing up as a chicken or being pushed down the aisle in a bed surrounded with mosquito netting to promote the need for helping the African people with farm animals or mosquito netting, this congregation has helped. Becky has received donations of sewing supplies, school supplies, gift bag supplies, and private monetary donations from her church family. This congregation has helped to supply the Africans with everything from water wells to children's hand bells. All of this was made possible due to Becky letting us know what is needed.

When asked why she has gone to Africa 12 times Becky replies, "Because God told me to go." "When God keeps presenting it, you go."

This is the gift Becky has brought to this church family. The opportunity to not only learn about Africa, but the opportunity to help provide for our African brothers and sisters.

When you ask Becky what she gets out of being a member of Grace and being a missionary to Africa, she will tell you she gets more than she gives. Whether it is serving on the hand bell choir, altar guild, or traveling to Africa, she receives the joy of seeing the hearts and minds of people who love to serve. The joy of creating a family of church members, brothers and sisters in Africa, as well as traveling companions.

We can all agree, the little 12-year-old girl who wanted to be a missionary has grown up to be a missionary who has made a big difference in the lives of all who know her.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARK

The penitential season of Lent began early this year on Ash Wednesday, February 14. For many, giving up something is a common way of observing this season. It can be a strong reminder that our Lord gave up everything for us, his very life.

The ashes of Ash Wednesday are a reminder of our mortality ("to dust you shall return") and, along with sackcloth (no plans to use that anytime soon at Grace!), an ancient biblical symbol of remorse and repentance. The somber tone of Lent is appropriate for a season that asks us to take stock of ourselves and recommit to being the kind of disciples God wants us to be.

But Lent (which means "the lengthening of days" or simply "Spring") is a time of joy and hope, too. With repentance comes renewal -- a "spiritual Spring" if you will. During Lent, we prepare to walk alongside our Lord as He makes His journey to the Cross. This requires turning 180 degrees from our sinfulness and following in the footsteps of the Servant-King.

The biblical term for this action is repentance and is one of the practices that the Ash Wednesday liturgy invites us to. The invitation to Lent, spoken by the pastor, identifies several practices; "self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love -- strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament."

None of these practices necessarily comes easily. The more difficult ones for me are self-examination and repentance, with the latter even more difficult than the former. It is difficult enough for me to take an honest look at myself and my behavior, what Twelve-Step recovery programs call "a fearless moral inventory," and how that behavior affects other people. It is even more difficult for me to make changes in my life and behavior that will reduce the negative impact that such behavior unleashes upon others.

In spite of whatever difficulty, we experience in our Lenten journey, if we go the distance in our spiritual walk with Jesus, we will be there to see the glory of the open tomb! The promise of resurrection on Easter Sunday! God's eternal Kingdom fully realized!

Those Ash Wednesday words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," are a strong reminder of the fragility of life, and that our days on earth are indeed finite. But God's plan for us, God's loving embrace of us, is everlasting. All thanks be to God who makes it so!

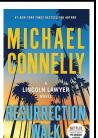


BIBLE STUDIES WITH MAUREEN take place on Mondays at 1 pm in the lounge and Tuesdays at 1 pm via Zoom with Christine Schneider-Smith. These groups have started a study called *Women Like Us*. Contact Maureen for the Zoom link by emailing her at maureenpump2022@gmail.com

GRIEF SUPPORT will meet on *March 18 at* 6 pm in the lounge. This is a time when we share a devotion, prayer and mutual support through discussion. Questions? Call the church office.

GRACE GATHERS is a fellowship group that meets on the third Thursday of the month. On **March 21 at 6 pm** we will meet at the Chateau Vineyard & Winery in Helena. Please call the church office if you plan to attend.

BOOKWORMS will meet on March 25 at 2 pm in the lounge to discuss Resurrection Walk (from Lincoln Lawyer series) by Michael Connelly. If you would like to participate virtually please email Maureen at maureen-



email Maureen at maureenpump2022@gmail.com and she will send
you the Zoom link for the meeting on March
26 at 11 am.

FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE

Bring your donations to worship on *March 16 & 17.* This month we will collect peanut butter & jelly.



Please place your donations in the grocery carts that are located in the Narthex and by the Baker Street entrance. At the request of the food pantry no glass jars.

JUGGLING ACT - Family, career, social life, taking care of a home, are many of the things that women juggle every day. Sometimes it's nice to gather around a meal that is being served to you and chat with other women who are also juggling the demands of life. Juggling Act meets at 5:30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We will meet on February 27 and March 26. If you plan to attend please call the church office, 419-332-1558. Hope to see you there!

Now is the

ATTENTION PARENTS AND KIDS: ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT SUMMER CAMP?

Now is the time to start planning! Summer Camp is available to all youth 2nd grade through High School. If interested, please contact Heather for all the fun details!

Email Heather at: HeatherRHawn@gmail.com



NOISY OFFERING is received the first weekend of each month. The next collection will be *March 2 & 3*. The Christian Missions/Outreach Committee chooses a mission to receive the Noisy Offering each quarter of the year. The committee has decided that your gifts for the first quarter will be given to support a camp scholarship which will enable children from our congregation to attend a Lutheran summer camp.

The Noisy Offering collected in February totaled \$187.25.

"THANK YOU" to everyone who helps make a JOYFUL NOISE each month!



FEBRUARY 18 -

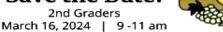
Eleanor Jean King, daughter of Brian & Kathryn King



YOUTH **COMMITTEE** will meet on March 11 at 6:45 pm in the youth room.

KIDS ZONE meets during worship! Children are welcome to join us following the Children's message and we will return to worship before communion. Toddlers - 1st graders will meet with Penny Russell and 2nd - 5th graders will meet with Danielle Wagner.

Save the Date!





We will hold a first communion mini-retreat for second graders and older who have yet to receive their first communion. First Communion will be Palm Sunday, March 24th at the 9am service.

> Please RSVP for the class by March 11 by calling the church office, 419-332-1558.

ACOLYTES at Grace serve during the 9 a.m. service. We encourage acolytes to sign up at least once every other month. Please scan the QR code to sign up.





2024 YOUTH & YOUNG **ADULT GATHERING**

ELCA Youth & Young Adult Gathering will be held in New I Orleans July 16 - 20, 2024.

Youth going to The Gathering will meet on the second Sunday of each month to prepare for this trip. Our next meeting will be *March 10 from 1 - 3 pm at* St. John's. During this meeting we will be packing food for the Backpack Buddies program.

EASTER BREAKFAST will be hosted by our youth on March 31 before worship from 8 - 8:45 am in the dining room. Youth volunteers are needed to help prepare for this



event. Please sign up by scanning the QR code.

What are we Youth & Children Small Groups | March 2024

Kids Zone

Grades 1-5 | During Sunday Worship

Iceberg- God is in Control Frozen- God is Always with Me Avalanche- Thinking Before I Speak Snowball- Jesus Loves Me

CHILL is a four week study where Children will learn "A person with a bad temper stirs up conflict. But a person who is patient calms things down." Proverbs 15:18

Young Samaritans

Middle & High School March 17th | 10:15 am Youth Room

> Dealing with Conflict lacob & Esau Genesis 27:1-45

Bible Basics

Preschool - K | During Sunday Worship

Jesus Teaches and Heals Jesus Feeds a Crowd Jesus the Good Shepherd Palm Sunday

Community Building

Middle & High School March 24 | 10:15 am Youth Room

Socks for the Homeless *please bring a bag of men's socks

Children's Message

During 9a Worship

Spring Cleaning John 2:13-22 Walking in the Light John 3:20-21 Power of God's Love John 12:32 King for a Day Mark 11:1-11 Easter Egg-citement Matthew 28:6

Confirmation

7th & 8th Graders | 10:15 am Youth Room

3/3 - Lord's Prayer 3/10 - Lord's Prayer 3/17 - Young Samaritans 3/24- Community Building 3/31- Happy Easter NO CLASS!

Save the Date!

Pre-K - 5th Grade | April 26, 2024

crafts and games.

Race Night! 6-8pm Join us for a night at the race track! We will be building and racing lego cars at along with other race themed snacks,

LIFT NEWS: MARCH '24

WELCOMING BASKETS

Laundry baskets Garden gloves sizes M-L Light weight blankets

Rubber overshoes Pillows

Long sleeve thin cotton pullover shirts

Baseball caps with neck covering

Small coolers Bandanas

First aid kits

Thin lightweight coveralls

Sunscreen

Water thermoses Shampoo and conditioner

Coffee mugs

Laundry detergent

Fabric softener Lunch boxes

Toilet paper Electric razors

Bath towels/face towels/wash clothes

Sunglasses

Toothpaste/toothbrushes
Light raincoats

Deodorant



Bridge of Hope is preparing welcoming baskets for migrant families coming to work in the fields of Sandusky County every April. We are asking for donations to help make these possible. For info, call 419-334-2605

Donated items may be sent to: Hayes Memorial UMC 1441 Fangboner Rd. Fremont, OH 43420

MAKING CHANGE



2024 Lenten Series Wednesdays Starting February 21





LIFT MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP THE CONGREGATION STAYS AND THE LEADERS ROTATE

GRACE: MEAL - 5 PM, WORSHIP - 6:30 PM ST. JOHN'S: WORSHIP - NOON (12:00 PM) ST. MARK: MEAL - 6 PM; WORSHIP - 7 PM

DATE	GRACE	ST. JOHN'S	ST. MARK	
FEB. 28	Change of Circumstances Pr. Matt Wheeler	Change of Heart Pr. Paul Bailie	Change of Habit Pr. Mark Bogen	
MARCH 6	Change of Heart Pr. Paul Bailie	Change of Plans Maureen Pump, SAM	Change of Circumstances Pr. Matt Wheeler	
MARCH 13	Change of Plans Maureen Pump, SAM	Change of Habit Pr. Mark Bogen	Change of Heart Pr. Paul Bailie	
MARCH 20	Change of Habit Pr. Mark Bogen	Change of Circumstances Pr. Matt Wheeler	Change of Plans Maureen Pump, SAM	

ws from the A

The school year is moving right along. We have been having so much fun! Let's hope we are past the yucky winter weather so we do not miss any more school! We have put together take-home folders, so if we are off because of weather, the children have things to work on at home. We are moving along with our alphabet letters and are already on the letter Q. For the letter P, we had a wonderful visit with Officer Robinson, from the Fremont Police Department. She came in and read the kids a cute story and let them check out her police car. We had so much fun and this will be something we continue to do every year! We continue to work on enrollment for next school year, so if anyone is interested, please send them our way. Again, thank you for your continued support!

> Andrea Hirt, Administrator Noah's Ark Preschool

ENROLLING NOW FOR THE 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR. Please contact Andrea Hirt at noahsark.fremont@gmail.com Classes begin September 3 & 4.

HOLY WEEK WITH LIFT

Maundy Thursday

March 28

6:30 PM Worship

Faith

7 PM Worship

St. John's 7 PM Worship **Good Friday** March 29



St. Mark 12 PM

Grace 6:30 PM

Faith

7 PM

St. John's 7 PM

Saturday

March 30



Grace

4 PM Worship

St. Mark

7 PM LIFT Easter Vigil

LIFT to Celebrate Easter Vigil on March 30

LIFT will celebrate the Easter Vigil on March 30 at 7 PM at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Fremont. In the early centuries of Christianity, baptisms were only performed at one time a year—Easter Vigil. Persons new to Christianity—catechumens—were baptized at the Easter Vigil and welcomed into the faith. In preparation, the catechumens would have a period of preparation, usually involving prayer, fasting,



and acts of charity. This time became Lent. For our LIFT vigil, we'll start outside around the fire, then process inside with candles to hear creative retellings of salvation Bible stories. We'll remember our Baptism and celebrate Holy Communion.

CHOIR IS RETURNING! Beginning on March 6 at 7:15 pm the Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals in the sanctuary. Chancel Choir is open to high school students through adults. Our choir is so important to worship in the leadership of hymns and liturgy; in providing amplification of the Word through anthems; and in the building of fellowship and membership of the church. Whether you are a long-time choir member or considering membership for the first time, please consider texting our new choir director, Susan Barker, at 734-389-9855, to better prepare for the first rehearsal. See you on March 6!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

March 1	Steven Lindsay	2240 Smith Rd.
March 1	Ann Richardson	817 Vargas Ct.
March 7	Jerry Letzring	171 E. Co. Rd. 109
March 8	Carol Klohn	1247 N. River Rd., Rm. 219
March 9	Corliss Johnson	1938 Glen Springs Dr.
March 20	Ronald Tuckerman	1055 Co. Rd. 289
March 26	Diane Berryman	1105 Arlington St.
March 26	Benjamin Cooley	1611 Ell Dr.
March 26	Nancy McKeever	1451 Oak Harbor Rd., Lot 3B
March 27	Judith Reed	1907 W. State St., #188
March 27	Norman Rife	5212 St. Rt. 101, Clyde
March 31	Donna Cooley	140 Thomas Dr.

THANK YOU to John Burmeister for taking the seats from two pews and creating our beautiful serving table at the back of the sanctuary! And, to Greg Jess for the additional electrical work added to this fellowship space!

THANK YOU to John Burmeister for organizing the CPR training that was held in January. We trained 15 people that day on how to administer CPR and how to operate the defibrillator that is located at the back of the sanctuary.

THANK YOU to Chris Biddinger, for offering to help operate the iPad during worship to play the hymns. Your help is greatly appreciated! We would like to have a few more volunteers to help with this and if you are interested please contact Maureen or Pr. Mark.



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

March 1, 1969 - Thomas & Patricia Appleby, 2401 Buckland Ave.

March 15, 1974 - Bruce & Marsha Hirt, 29 Pinewood Dr.

March 17, 1973 - Dan & Carol Polter, 1015 N. Co. Rd. 220



Cori Eishen

Patrícia Lindsay

AS OF JANUARY 31	2024 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET
Year to Date Income	\$ 28,377	\$ 31,566		
Year to Date Dedicated Funds Transfer In**	5,974	<u>1,517</u>		
Year to Date Total Income	\$ 34,351	\$ 33,083	\$ 43,383	\$ 35,587
Year to Date Expenses	35,958	42,849		
Year to Date Dedicated Funds Expenses**	5,974	1,517		
Year to Date Total Expenses	<u>\$ 41,932</u>	<u>\$ 44,366</u>	<u>\$41,700</u>	<u>\$ 45,102</u>
Year to Date Income Less Expense	\$ -7,581	\$ -11,283	\$ 1,683	\$ -9,515

^{**} Funds released from back page Dedicated Funds

CHURCH COUNCIL - Minutes February 12, 2024

- Call Committee Update: an in-person visit with a candidate has been scheduled!
- Nominating Committee to be led by Vice-President David Cooper; 4 seats to be filled. Looking for nominees. Elections will be held Sunday, May 5, 2024.
- Christian Missions/Outreach committee did not meet
- Christian Worship: the Hymn Selection Committee will meet and select hymns for March and April
- Christian Property: the Grace Lutheran Church signs that are located around Fremont were taken down by Pr.
 Henry Seibert & Greg Jess; they will be re-done with updated worship times, etc. Looking into building security
 options; obtaining quotes to convert sanctuary entrance doors with new hardware; drinking fountain in Sunday
 School hallway has been repaired; CPR training class was well attended and went well.
- Christian Stewardship: Stewardship for all Seasons progress continues.
- Christian Youth/Growth: youth retreat in BG Feb.16-17, 2 confirmands from Grace will attend; 82 pairs of socks and bottled water for the homeless were delivered to Pontifex, Share & Care, St. John's Blessing Box, and Soup Kitchen. Craft & Crop fundraiser donated \$151 to the Soup Kitchen. First Communion training to be held March 16 from 9-11AM.
- Saturday and Sunday organists will play February 17 and 18!

We are pleased to announce the hiring of two organists for weekend worship services!

INTRODUCING:

Hyo Jung Kim, Saturday Organist. Mrs. Kim lives in the Toledo area with her husband, who is the pastor at Hanmi Covenant Presbyterian Church. She has an extensive background of professional organist and pianist experience.

Susan Barker, Sunday Organist. Mrs. Barker and her husband, live in the Bowling Green area. She comes highly qualified with an extensive background in organist, choir director, and orchestra experience.

We are very excited to have these two professional musicians as part of our music and worship team at Grace and look forward to working together!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Mark Bogen, Intentional Interim mark@bogen.org

Maureen Pump, Synod Authorized Minister maureenpump2022@gmail.com

Linda Baumer, Office/Financial Administrator gracefremont@yahoo.com

Tricia Dabrunz, Secretary/Receptionist dabrunztricia@yahoo.com

Heather Hawn, Youth Minister Heather RHawn@gmail.com

Andrea Hirt, Director Noah's Ark Preschool noahsark.fremont@gmail.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday - 4:00 p.m. Sunday - 9:00 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES
IS WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 13, 2024

The newsletter will be assembled on Thursday, March 21, 2024

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP APPLCATIONS ARE AVAILABLE NOW!

Applications may be picked up at the church office or downloaded online at gracefremont.org

The deadline to submit an application is May 1, 2024.

Grace Lutheran Church

705 West State Street Fremont, OH 43420

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Paid Fremont, OH Permit #133

SERVING IN WORSHIP: MARCH 2024

*PLEASE NOTE: DEACONS & USHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING THEIR OWN REPLACEMENTS.

DATE	SERVICE	ACOLYTES	GREETER: NARTHEX	GREETER: BAKER ST.	USHERS *	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	DEACONS/ CLOSERS *
MARCH 2 & 3	4:00		V. SEVILLE				
	9:00		A. OVERMYER	K. OVERMYER	J. AVERS K. WATKINS	A. & B. FISHER	C. STAR S. AUEN
	4:00		J. JAMES				
MARCH 9 & 10	9:00	M. HAWN	C. AMOR	K. BURMEISTER	V. OHMS T. SCHLING	K. & A. OVERMYER	C. AMOR J. Burmeister
14 5 DOM 40 0 47	4:00		v. seville				
MARCH 16 & 17	9:00	R. HAWN	D. ZILLES	L. HALM	L. MCELFRESH S. BURMEISTER	B. PRASUHN T. SCHLING	R. COOPER A. FISHER
PALM SUNDAY	4:00		J. JAMES				
MARCH 23 & 24	9:00		J. GANGWER	M. WIDMER	K. OVERMYER S. KELLER	G. & J. JESS	C. STAR S. AUEN
EASTER	4:00		V. SEVILLE				
MARCH 30 & 31	9:00		L. & B. MCELFRESH	J. GUTHRIE	R. HAYNES D. COOPER	B. BRADFORD S. BRICKNER	J. BURMEISTER A. FISHER
ADDIL C C 7	4:00		J. JAMES				
APRIL 6 & 7	9:00		S. WATKINS	K. BURMEISTER	G. & J. DUPEY	E. & B. MUFFLER	R. COOPER G. JESS

MAUNDAY THURSDAY ~ MARCH 28, 2024 AT 6:30 PM

DEACONS: G. JESS & R. COOPER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	a Fig	Tais	2024		1	4:00 Worship/Communion/ Noisy Offering
NOISY OFFERING 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 10:15 Confirmation	9:00 Project Day 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 6:00 Den Meeting	11:00 Worship Committee Meeting 1:00 Bible Study via Zoom	6 MID-WEEK LENT 5:00 Meal 6:30 Mid-Week Lenten Worship 7:15 Chancel Choir	7 11:30 Soup Kitchen	8	4:00 Worship/Communion
9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 10:15 Confirmation 1 - 3:00 Youth Gathering Meeting at St. John's	1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 6:00 Scout Parent Meeting 6:00 Executive Board Meeting 6:45 Youth Committee - Youth Room 7:30 Church Council	1:00 Bible Study via Zoom	G & T DEADLINE/ MID-WEEK LENT 5:00 Meal 6:30 Mid-Week Lenten Worship 7:15 Chancel Choir	14 11:30 Soup Kitchen	15	9 - 11:00 First Communion Training 4:00 Worship/Communion/Food Pantry Challenge
FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE (peanut butter & jelly) 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 10:15 Confirmation	9:00 Project Day 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 6:00 Grief Support	1:00 Bible Study via Zoom **Hella Spring!	MID-WEEK LENT 5:00 Meal 6:30 Mid-Week Lenten Worship 7:15 Chancel Choir	G & T ASSEMBLED 11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:00 Grace Gathers, Chateau Vineyard & Winery, Helena	22	4:00 Worship/Communion
PALM SUNDAY/ FIRST COMMUNION 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone/ First Communion 10:15 Confirmation 31 EASTER SUNDAY 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone	1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 2:00 Bookworms	11:00 Virtual Bookworms via Zoom 1:00 Bible Study via Zoom 5:30 Juggling Act - The Garrison	27	MAUNDY THURSDAY 11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:30 Maundy Thursday Worship	GOOD FRIDAY 6:30 Good Friday Worship	4:00 Worship/Communion 7:00 LIFT Easter Vigil at St. Mark