



Grace Notes

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH AT
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, CASTALIA, OH

FEBRUARY 2024

ASH WEDNESDAY



Joel 2:12, ESV

"Yet even now,"
declares the LORD,
"**RETURN
TO ME**
with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping,
and with mourning."

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Be sure to call or email your information for the weekly bulletin announcements to Beth in the church office, glccastalia@gmail.com by **9AM on Thursday** at the latest.

Newsletter announcements are due no later than the 20th of the month.

SUPPLY PASTOR SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

- 4: Pastor Phil Gardner
- 11: Pastor Larry Michaels
- 14: Pastor Dane Meuschke (Ash Wednesday)
- 18: Pastor Mike Shelley
- 21: Pastor Mike Shelley (Mid-Week Lent)
- 25: Pastor Chris Young
- 28: Pastor Dane Meuschke (Mid-Week Lent)



MINISTRY UPDATES

COMMUNITY MEAL

The Community Meal started 2024 serving 167 meals, with some leftovers either frozen for future meals, or donated to Crossroads. We are grateful to all who contributed time and/or desserts to serve our community. We are equally grateful to those who give financial support even when not required. How Great He is and Thou Art! The menu for February is Turkey Tettrazzini, cole slaw, roll and dessert.

GRACE'S TABLE FOOD PANTRY

Drive-thru pantry was held on Saturday, January 20, 2024, and boxes were distributed to 56 families.

Due to increased demand, the pantry is in need of food and monetary donations. Volunteers to assist with the pantry are always needed. Please come and help us with this important ministry.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Grace Kids are to be commended for always pitching in to help. They were fast on their feet to move boxes when taking down Christmas decorations. They love helping during worship with offering and Communion, and many even share their reading skills by reading scripture lessons. Our older students are often right in the middle of things helping fill cars on Pantry days too. Please offer your thanks to these fine young people when you see them and praise their involvement as active members of Grace.

SEWING MINISTRY

The sewing group will be meeting on February 7th and 21st. We are making quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief. Please join us!

PROJECT SHARE SPAGHETTI DINNER

Project Share will be having their annual Spaghetti dinner here at Grace on Saturday, March 2nd, beginning at 4:30pm, until sold out. The menu will be Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, breadstick and dessert. Drive-Thru pickup ONLY in the back of the church. Delivery is available for shut-ins. Please call 419-357-3672 to schedule a delivery.

Free will offering.



JEANETTE SMITH:	The Willows of Bellevue, 101 Auxiliary Drive, Bellevue, OH 44811
BETTY MEGGITT:	The Willows of Bellevue, 101 Auxiliary Drive, Bellevue, OH 44811
MARIE SEVERANCE:	Portland Place, 3808 Venice Road, Sandusky, 44870
TODD MILLER:	Portland Place, 3808 Venice Road, Sandusky, 44870
ALICE LEHMAN:	Harborview Apartments, 115 Franklin Street, Apt. 401, Sandusky, OH 44870
NORMA SHELLEY:	Commons Asst. Living, 5000 Providence Drive, Rm. 202 Sandusky, OH 44870

Please note: This list is comprised of individuals who have authorized their residence information to be published. If you are a member of Grace and would like to be placed on the homebound list, please contact Beth Kieffer in the office at 419-684-5059.

STAMP MINISTRY

Thank you for continuing to save your stamps! The income generated by this ministry goes to support the preparation, publishing and distribution of a Spanish language curriculum for Sunday schools. More than 50 lesson series have been published and are being used in churches of 40 different denominations and missions in 19 different Spanish speaking countries in South America, Central America, Spain and even the USA. A box to deposit your saved stamps is located in the coat room right off the sanctuary. Carol Pfeil handles the collection, cutting and delivery of the stamps to Alliance Stamp Ministry in Florida. Keep saving those stamps!!

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

Operating Offerings:	\$28,929.00
Operating Expenses:	\$17,829.41
Operating Fund Balance:	\$(1,064.00) () denotes deficit
Designated Giving:	\$ 9,981.00

IMPORTANT NOTE: Copies of the complete and detailed financial statements are available for review in the Church office.

Capital Campaign Update

We have raised through donations and letters of intent \$336,000 of our goal of \$372,000, which is 90% of our goal. Total number of letters of intent received is 35 out of 161, or 22%. The number of giving units donating to date is 50%. Our current mortgage balance is at \$90,000. Due to how timely we have paid off principle, we have been able to reduce our interest expense by about \$20,000.

Thank you to everyone who has donated or indicated giving through a letter of intent! If you have not yet turned in a letter of intent, please prayerfully consider as it greatly helps with the campaign. Letters of intent can be turned into the church office or through the offering trays.

To have your prayer request placed on the Grace Prayer Chain, **please contact Lynne Yetter at 419-603-6759.**





FEBRUAR

S	M	T	W
4	5	6	7
WORSHIP – 9AM Sunday School –10:15am Catechism – 10:15am	Dartball Home 7:30PM	Morning Prayer 6:15AM	Sewing 9-11:00AM Boy Scouts 6-7:30PM Choir-7PM
11	12	13	14
WORSHIP-9AM Sunday School –10:15am Catechism – 10:15am	Dartball Home 7:30PM	Morning Prayer 6:15AM Circle 3 – 1:30PM Circle 5 – 7:00PM	Boy Scouts 6-7:30PM Community Meal 5-6pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00PM Choir – after worship
18	19	20	21
WORSHIP – 9AM Sunday School –10:15am Catechism – 10:15am	Dartball AWAY at Huron 7:30PM	Morning Prayer 6:15AM CHURCH COUNCIL -7:00PM-	Sewing 9-11:00AM Boy Scouts 6-7:30PM Mid-week Lenten Service -7PM Choir-after worship
25	26	27	28
WORSHIP – 9AM Sunday School –10:15am Catechism – 10:15am		Morning Prayer 6:15AM	Boy Scouts 6-7:30PM Mid-week Lenten Service -7PM Choir-after worship

FEBRUARY READERS

- 4. Brenda Ried
- 11. Jane Ann Cummings
- 18. Rod Smith
- 25. Bren Smith

FEBRUARY FLOWERS

- 4. Open
- 11. Kuns
- 18. Carl Pocock
- 25. Open

Y 2024

T	F	S
1 Morning Prayer 6:15AM	2 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	3
8 Morning Prayer 6:15AM	9 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	10
15 Morning Prayer-6:15AM	16 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	17 Food Pantry 9-10:00AM
22 Morning Prayer-6:15AM	23 Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm	24
29 Morning Prayer-6:15AM		

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4. Bennett Barnette, Kynlee Barnette
- 10. Linda Kuns
- 18. Terry Myers, Lisa Steager
- 22. Andrew Yetter
- 25. Rebecca Henry
- 27. Len Kuns, Kim Gysan
- 28. Larry Robinett



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- February 5: Carolyn & John Rohrbacher
- February 14: Kim & Wayne Gysan
- February 19: Valarie & Dennis Grahl
- February 20: Barb & Carl Pocock
- February 20: Tina & Rob France

Congratulations

on your

7th Wedding Anniversary!

FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Bennett Barnette	Jettsen Barnette	Kynlee Barnette
Aren Brandal	James Churchill	Lincoln Churchill
Ma France	Greg Gowitzka	James Gowitzka
John Hagelberger	Mary Carol Kuns	Carolyn Lickfelt
Annette Smith	Randal Troike	



Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes
December 19, 2023

Pastor Katie Suggitt	X		
President: Brad Yetter	X	Christian Education:	Brent Lander X
Vice President: Dave Bodi	X	Social Outreach & Ministry:	Beth Kieffer X
Treasurer: Jordan Kuns	X	Stewardship & Finance:	Jim Kieffer X
Secretary: Becky Sessler	X	Church Property:	Larry Krogh X
Worship: Barb Rohrbacher	X		Jim Floro X

The meeting was called to order by President, Brad Yetter. Mission statement recited.
Thanksgiving for Baptism led by Pastor Katie.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Dave Bodi moved to accept the minutes from the November 21, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Jim Floro. Motion passed.

Financial Report:

Written report provided by Jordan Kuns. General offerings for the month were \$17,253. Construction offerings were \$28,405. Additional giving totaled \$1,743. Givings were consistent with the estimated monthly budget. Operating deficit decreased by \$480 for the month for a total of \$12,994. A payment of \$50,000 was made towards the mortgage principle in November. The current mortgage balance is \$100,000. We have met 88% of our goal as of December. \$45,000 remains unpledged and will be needed over the next 5 years. Jordan also reported that we had no unexpected expenses this month.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor has been busy tying up loose ends before retirement. She said her farewells to each ministry group and the catechism class. She led worship at the Willows. She also handed out Christmas cards to each pantry family. The next few weeks will consist of cleaning out her office and preparing for the three final worship services.

Ministry Reports:

Stewardship & Finance -

No report.

Worship -

Written report provided by Barb Rohrbacher. The committee has been making plans for Pastor's retirement reception on 12/31/23. Volunteers needed to assist with the reception. A Synod representative will be in attendance for Pastor's last service. Supply ministers have been secured for January through March, including lenten services. Judy Estep will be following up with those ministers that requested a call after the first of the year.

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes
December 19, 2023

Ministry Reports con't:

Christian Education-

Verbal report provided by Brent Landers. Brent reported that the Sunday School Christmas Program was held on Sunday, December 17th. Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 7th.

Outreach & Social Ministry-

Written report provided by Beth Kieffer. December pantry served 68 families. The Community Meal provided 202 meals for the month of December.

Property-

Jim Floro reported that the storm window and door in the Sanctuary will be repaired between Christmas and New Years. The Fire Department conducted their inspection. The inspection led to the following upgrades/changes: a new cord for the organ lamp, new shelf in the janitor's closet, two new power strips in the Sacristy, and replacement of the emergency lights in the Gathering Area. Beth Kieffer expressed her appreciation to the committee for their prompt help during the inspection. Jim also reported that additional lights were fixed in the fellowship hall. Questions were raised about increasing lighting in the Sanctuary. It was noted that this would be a capital expense. No action will be taken at this time.

Larry Krogh provided an additional update. Reported that the fellowship hall was put back to its original set up following Project Share. Larry also noted that the pantry has received a number of donations during the months of November and December.

New Business:

Council discussed potential candidates for the Transition Team. Let it be noted that this is not a Call Committee. The Transition Team will help navigate the time between Pastor's retirement and the call process. A Call Committee will be formed further down the road.

Old Business:

Dave Bodi was added as an authorized signer to the Church's checking account.

Announcements & Correspondence

None

Barb Rohrbacher moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Beth Kieffer. Motion passed.

Council closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer and Holy Communion. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7 PM in The Gathering Area.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 S. Washington Street
Castalia, OH 44824

GRACE GROWS DISCIPLES.

Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we WORSHIP the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, WITNESS to God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ, WELCOME all into our community of faith.

Our website address: www.GraceCastalia.com

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS: glccastalia@gmail.com

PHONE: 419-684-5059