

# AMAZING GRACE

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## God Provides

May tends to be a busy time of year. We can get caught up in trying to accomplish everything on our to do list and whatever pops up during the day. Have you ever forgotten anything that's important but was forgotten because it wasn't right in front of you? It's very easy to have it happen. Martin Luther reminds us that it's important to hear the Gospel every day because we forget it every day. We can become so caught up in what's before us we forget how much richer our lives are because of God's great love for us. We can lose sight of the fact that nothing in all creation can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We should never feel alone or abandoned because Jesus promises to be with you until the end of the ages. Our Heavenly Father wants you to be confident that for Jesus' sake He has forgiven you all your sins and shortcomings. God has removed them as far away as the east is from the west. God loves you dearly and has given you gifts and abilities so that you may love and serve him and others. He equips you and your brothers and sisters in Christ. God has given you the Holy Spirit to guide you, to turn you away from destructive behaviors, strengthen and renew your faith in Him and to enable you to accept his grace in faith. He provides opportunities for you to worship and be fed and nurtured by him. God provides you with a community of faith to encourage and build you up so that you can do the same for others. Our God is even known as the God of Hope. Scripture tells us that our God of Hope seeks to fill you with joy and peace as you trust in him so that you might overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. May His joy, peace and hope fill your lives every day. Our Heavenly Father wants you to live confidently in the promise that Jesus has gone ahead of you to prepare a place for you eternally with them in heaven. He loves you and wants to spend all eternity with you. Enjoy and bask in His love and these abundant gifts each and every day. May the Gospel of Jesus bring light to your lives each and every day.

Living and Blessed by Christ's Love and Grace,

*Pastors Bert and Shelly*

### Growing Community in Faith

**Christian Concert** will be held May 31, 2023 starting at 5:30 pm under the Entertainment tent at the JC Community Days. Join us for a night of faith, fellowship, and worship. To provide this event for our community, we need your helping hands in sharing our story. We need to raise funds so we can make this a free event for anyone to attend. If you as an individual or organization would like to make a donation for this faith night please send it to Grace Lutheran and write checks to "Luther League". We hope to have all the communities come together to support the youth and fill our tent with the Spirit and love of God. Some background on the concert, Kristin Vaubel, owner of New Horizon Music Studio in Botkins & local youth will be performing along with Peder & Allison Eide singer/songwriters and worship leaders from Minnesota. This is a great opportunity for our community to come together.

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**Deadline for the next  
newsletter is  
May 22, 2023**

# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Church Administrative Council

### Minutes

April 12, 2023

John Pence, called the April 12, 2023, meeting to order with the following CAC members present: Scott Klopfenstein, Seth Regula, Bert Regula, Marcia Davis, John Pence, Pastor Shelly, Pastor Bert, Garrett Serr (by phone), Matt Kohler, Roger Detrick, and Tanya Hinegardner.

John Pence had the devotion based on Psalm 46.

Secretary's report was approved as presented. Seth Regula moved and Marcia Davis seconded the secretary's report. Motion carried.

Bert Regula, presented the treasurer's report for March 2023. Total receipts for March were \$18,416.53 and expenses were \$23,208.28. The ending balance in the checking account on 03/31/2023 was \$47,832.83. Bert said the budget was on target. Marcia Davis moved and Tanya Hinegardner seconded the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

#### \*Pastor's Report for the month of April 2023

##### Pastoral Visitation for March

Home Visits	9
Office Visits	10
Ministry Meetings	14
Bereavement Visits	
Hospital Visits	6

We have also participated in a variety of other parish and community interactions which include phone calls, emails, texts, and other activities.

##### Informational Updates

- Adult Sunday school studying Revelation
- Pastor Shelly leading worship at Zion in St. Mary's, April 30th.
- Hosted NWOMD meeting 03/28/23
- Deadline for OMR Convocation and Faith Formation Event registration April 21st
- The actual events are May 5 – 6 at Grace in Westerville
- Confirmation May 7th
- Graduate Recognition May 14th
- Picnic in the Park June 11<sup>th</sup> 3 - 6 pm
- Outdoor Worship starts June 11<sup>th</sup> weather permitting
- VBS July 17 - 21

##### NALC Correspondence

- Fresh Eyes for Mission with facilitator Rev. David Wendel to discuss the possibility of a summit at Grace June 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> timeline or data collection
- Luther Week and NALC Convocation August 8 - 11

##### Action Items

##### Continuing Education

Canadian Rockies Theological Conference, April 17- 21, 2023, Canmore Alberta Canada, Fiction and Fact: The Writings of Bishop Bo Giertz

##### \*Old Business

- Pastor Shelly provided us with the church safety information sheet and Marcia Davis will contact the names on the list of trained medical members to make sure they agree to be on the list. Pastor Shelly suggested that we check to see about another fire extinguisher and Scott Klopfenstein said that he would contact Braden Lotz (Jackson Center Fire Chief) to give the church some recommendations
- Dick and Linda Jenkins will be asked about being the delegates for the NALC convention in August
- The prep for Fresh Eyes was being completed
- Matt Kohler and Scott Klopfenstein tentatively will be the delegates for the Ohio convention in May
- Matt Kohler let us know that the audit of the church was good and the only two items that needed some work were the Luther League checking and Thrivent Choice checking
- Matt Kohler said that Cassi Klopfenstein will be asked to join the audit committee

##### \*New Business

- Ten members are interested in the Tanzania mission trip and asked to make sure that they can start fundraising to help with the trip cost. Everyone agreed that it was fine.
- Kyle Burch, Brooke Ann Byrd, Lillian Davis, Kendall Hilbun, and Andrew Stinebaugh were approved for confirmation membership on May 7th. Seth Regula moved and Bert Regula seconded. Motion carried.
- A basket in the amount of \$75.00 was agreed on for the JC Growth Association. Matt Kohler moved and Marcia Davis seconded. Motion carried.
- Pastor Bert provided information on the S.O.N. Network support and will update us at the next meeting
- Volunteers and donations are needed for the "Growing Community Through Faith" concert on May 31<sup>st</sup>. A \$500 donation will be made from Grace Lutheran. Scott Klopfenstein approved and Garrett Serr seconded. Motion carried.
- Pastor Shelly asked about putting an item in the bulletin and newsletter for donations for the NALC Disaster Fund.

##### Committee Reports:

**Choice:** Tanya Hinegardner – No report received.

**Education:** John Pence & Marcia Davis – The Education Committee met on February 20, 2023, with Lori Wiswell, Pastor Shelly, Becky Copeland, Jen Woolley, Darlene Woolley, Bonnie Kaufman, Elsa Stengel, Doug Hinegardner, and Abby Pence present. Doug opened with prayer. Financial report was approved with a balance of \$13,964.26, Nov-Feb income of \$1,054.76 and \$939.06 in expenses. Secretary's report was reviewed and approved. Becky provided a Sunday School update that the number of students is still lower prior to COVID but varies week to week. Unit 1 of the new curriculum started and they will be recycling some of the Sunday School lessons and materials for next year. Children's bell choir will be play on Easter Sunday-April 9<sup>th</sup> at the 8 am service and Confirmation-Sunday-May7th at the 10:30 am service. Pastor Shelly updated the committee that the catechism finished the study of Baptism and Office of the Keys and is now studying Holy Communion. Adult Sunday School is studying the book of Revelation. Adult attendance is up. A Safety Training presentation took place on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Gospel Gang is study-

ing the Lord's Prayer and are averaging nine students. Vacation bible school will take place July 17 – 21 and the theme this year will be "Keepers of the Kingdom". We will be passing out post cards again during the Community Days parade. Cradle Roll Ministry will be switching materials. The new materials focus on developing rituals and routine with your child. There are currently five children enrolled right now. Grace Lutheran and surrounding churches will be raising money for "Growing Community in Faith" a Christian concert on May 31, 2023. There will be a fundraiser here at Grace "Parents Night Out" on March 31st. Next meeting will be May 8, 2023, at 6:30 pm. See the bulletin for further details. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Endowment:** Matt Kohler – The Endowment Committee met and are awarding 1 \$600 scholarship.

**Friendship:** Marcia Davis – Twelve students have signed up for the mentoring program and there are five mentors that have signed up.

**Lay/Witness:** Bert Regula – The Picnic in the Park will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the church shelter house from 3 – 6 pm.

**Youth:** Garrett Serr – Gospel Gang has started up again. The Luther League will be meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup> to go bowling. Darrel Klopfenstein has the wood to build the picnic tables.

**Worship:** Seth Regula – The Worship Committee met on March 27, 2023 with the following members present: Seth Regula, Rick Russell, Jennifer Woolley, Toni Leininger, Nancy McName, Cheryl Burch, and Pastor Shelly. Pastor Shelly opened the meeting with scripture and prayer. The CAC has again approved outdoor worship for the summer of 2023. The outdoor services will be from June 11<sup>th</sup> to the end of August. The last outdoor service will be on Rally Day Sunday. The Audio-Visual job opening was discussed next. We have only one person apply so far, and they wanted to do the job from their home which is not acceptable. The position again be posted through social media and with the local schools in the general area. Lenten services have been going well and everyone feels the congregation enjoys singing Holden Evening Prayer. Pastor Shelly thanked Seth and Rick for leading the singing. Plans for Palm Sunday and Holy Week were then discussed. The Palms were ordered and arrived. The Crown of Thorns are already installed on the crosses in the vestibules. Pastor Shelly asked for suggestions for persons to ask to help decorate the alter area for Easter. Several names were mentioned, and those people will be contacted to ask for their help. Easter flowers have been ordered this year for Andy's Garden Center. We were not able to specify colors this year, as the suppliers sometimes have difficulties having enough of a particular color. We will commune at the Altar rail on Maundy Thursday. Good Friday, we will again have a Tenebrae service. We will again have two services this year on Easter. Traditional at 8 am, Easter breakfast at 9 am, Sunday School at 9:15 am, and the Praise and Worship service at 10:30 am. The Children's Bell Choir will be joining in on the opening hymn at the 8 am service.

Following are special services that will be taking place in the next several months. The Choir Service will be April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the 8 am service.

There will be a Praise and Worship service led by the Praise

Band at the 10:30 am service on a date to yet to be announced sometime in April or May.

Confirmation Sunday is May 7<sup>th</sup> and will be at the 10:30 am service.

Recognition of graduating seniors will be on May 14<sup>th</sup> at both services.

Our next meeting will be on August 14 at 7:00 pm.

As there was no other business to be discussed, the meeting was closed with prayer.

**Mission:** Scott Klopfenstein – The Mission Committee met on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm with seven members present and Pastor Wayne as guest. Pastor Bert led the meeting in prayer. Pastor Bert announced that we received a \$5,000 grant from the NALC, last year we had received \$12,000. We are extremely thankful for this grant money; however, due to the decreased amount we need to make some difficult decisions on where to designate the funds. The committee all agreed that we want to keep the salaries of the social worker, Tunsbliege, and the evangelist, Ndumieshi. Both have been doing excellent work going out to the remote villages and providing education and sharing Christ. We continue to get reports from them on a routine basis and there are many stories of hope and saving through Christ that are being done in these villages. The initial grant proposal had a request for an assistant evangelist salary, health insurance, along with a motorcycle and gas for traveling to villages. We feel there is a strong need to reach out to even more people of the villages. The committee hopes to set a goal and acquire at least eight individuals to donate \$50 a month (\$600 a year) to fulfill this request. We want to see if anyone from Grace Lutheran Church would prayerfully consider being a \$50 a month donor, as the need for another evangelist will do even more wonders of God's work! The committee is happy to share the reports of baptisms and new members consistently attending the village churches. Pastor Wayne will be going to St. Johns church in Greenville on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to speak about the Tanzania Ministry, the 2024 mission trip, and see if there is anyone interested in the giving of \$50 a month. Pastor Wayne will also be heading to Wyoming to speak to a church that Pastor Bert connected with while at the NALC conference in Texas. This Pastor, Robb Carr, is excited to have the church hear about the ministry project as well as the 2024 mission trip, as they have been wanting to participate in some sort of missions in Tanzania. Pastor Robb Carr's church has committed to sponsor the student, Joshua Dutchman. Men of Grace are encouraged to attend. The Mission Committee will be hosting the Lent meal on March 29<sup>th</sup>. We will be serving an Italian meal of spaghetti, bread, salad, green beans, and desserts. Donations will go the Tanzania Ministry for educational training materials on first aid, nutrition, small business management, and hygiene. The last order of business is to acquire one name that includes the original project of the 24 students/orphans that we sponsor as well as the new project of the evangelism and social worker that go into the remote villages and share the love of Jesus and provide education to the people. We all agreed on the names of "Tanzania Orphanage and Outreach Ministry". This name along with information regarding the

**Continued onto next page**

### **CAC Minutes Continued**

ministry will be posted on the NALC website. We ended the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

**Property & Trustee:** Roger Detrick, Scott Klopfenstein & John Pence – The lawnmower is being repaired and will probably get mulch in May.

#### **\*Any other business before adjourning?**

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 10th at 6:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Tanya Hinegardner, Sec.

## **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Quarterly Congregational Minutes April 16, 2023**

The April 16, 2023, quarterly congregational meeting was called to order by President John Pence. There were 40 members present. John opened the meeting with prayer.

The Secretary's report from January 22, 2023, was approved as presented. Matt Kohler moved and Abby Pence seconded the motion to approve the secretary's report. Motion carried.

Treasurer, Bert Regula, presented the quarterly treasurer's report as well. Receipts for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter totaled \$62,450.88. Expenses for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter totaled \$68,566.99. The balance for the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter was \$47,832.83. The mutual fund balance at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter was \$68,091.95. Bert did indicate that the Friendship budget was low because of purchasing paper products and asked for people to think about donating items. Kent Leininger moved and Kathy Klopfenstein seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

#### **Old Business:**

- John reminded everyone that VBS will be July 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> and asked for volunteers to help with VBS.

#### **New Business:**

- Matt Kohler provided that the audit committee met in March and found the books to be in great order.
- Matt's six year term will be ending at the end of 2023 and the CAC has approved Cassi Klopfenstein to take his place and she has agreed to take the position.
- Matt Kohler provided an update on the Endowment committee funds and that \$1,600.00 has been raised. A \$600.00 scholarship will be given out and the balance will go into a savings account.
- John indicated that we are still in need of two delegates for the OMR Convocation on May 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>
- Volunteers are needed for "Growing Community Through Faith" concert on May 31<sup>st</sup>

Pastor Bert provided the pastor's report. He thanked all of us for what we do in Jesus' name. The Fresh Eyes for Mission Summit will be on June 23<sup>rd</sup> – June 25<sup>th</sup>. The congregation is invited to the workshop on Saturday. Information is being gathered for this summit. Volunteers are needed for the "Growing Community Through Faith" concert on May 31<sup>st</sup> and fundraising is still going on. The amount trying to be raised for the concert is \$5,000 to \$7,000 and they are halfway there. There are about half a dozen congregations involved with the concert. The OMR Convocation on May 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> is geared toward the youth. Pastor Wayne will be hosting a men's retreat on April 29<sup>th</sup> and a group from our congregation will be going.

There being no further business. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Hinegardner, Sec.

## **Upcoming Events**


Wednesday, May 3:	Gospel Gang
Sunday, May 7:	Luther League Breakfast
Sunday, May 7:	Confirmation at 10:30 am Worship Service
Monday, May 8:	Education Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 10:	CAC Meeting / Choice Committee Meeting
Sunday, May 14:	Mother's Day & Senior Recognition @ Both Worship Services
Sunday, May 17:	Mission Committee Meeting
Sunday, May 21:	WOC Breakfast
Sunday, May 28:	Buckeye Farm Show @ Shelby County Fairgrounds
Monday, May 29:	Memorial Day, Church Office Closed
Wednesday, May 31:	Community Faith Night JC Community Days Tent

# Grace at Worship ...



## Day of Pentecost

The general tone for worship in the season of Pentecost, particularly during the summer months, is that of growth and flourishing. This season of the liturgical year is a time for focusing on growing in discipleship, deepening our relationship with God, and faithful obedience in following Jesus Christ. The long season of green Sundays is often referred to as "Ordinary Time." The word "ordinary" connotes the designation of Sundays by ordinal numbers rather than special names.

<b>Worship Servants for Sundays in May 2023</b>				
	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> May 7, 2023	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> May 14, 2023	<b>Ascension of Our Lord</b> May 21, 2023	<b>Day of Pentecost</b> May 28, 2023
<b>Lessons</b>	Acts 6:1-9; Ps 146; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14	Acts 17:16-31; Ps 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21	Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47; Eph. 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53	Numbers 11:24-30; Ps 25:1-15; Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39
	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
<b>Organists</b>	Cheryl Burch	Nancy McName	Cheryl Burch	Nancy McName
<b>Acolytes</b>	Brendan Serr	Brooke Ann Byrd	Lilly Davis	Brendan Serr
<b>Crucifers</b>	Brendan Serr	Brooke Ann Byrd	Lilly Davis	Brendan Serr
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Aaron Klopfenstein	Rick Russell	Linda Jenkins	Seth Regula
<b>A/V</b>	None	Carter Klopfenstein	None	Preston Serr
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	Maycee Kipker	Kendall Hilbun	Ethan Barhorst	Kendall Hilbun
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Cheryl Janssen	Matt Kohler	Karen Hatfield	Greg Woolley
<b>Communion Preparation</b>	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
<b>A/V</b>	Jill Ludwig	Karen Hatfield	Kay Frieders	Karen Hatfield
<b>Song Leaders</b>	Krista Withrow Matt Kohler	Katie Woolley Rick Sailor	Kassie Ludwig Greg Woolley	Cheryl Janssen Matt Kohler

# Women of the Church

## **Circle 1**

Circle 1 met Wednesday, April 5, 2023 with nine members present to answer roll call naming a Bible verse with the word "angel." Sharon Lenhart opened the meeting with a reading "This is My Father's World" by Helen Steiner Rice.

Minutes were read and approved. Treasury balance is \$170.26. WOC April project is the collection of items for Oesterlen Services for Youth as listed in our program books. Members volunteered to help with the Easter breakfast by providing food and clean-up help.

Sharon led our Bible study on Rebekah, wife of Isaac. She was a strong woman physically, intellectually, and emotionally courageous. She trusted God and was faithful. Some of her strengths became a danger to her family. God uses many people with different strengths that make us unique to bless others and fulfill His plan.

Praying the Lord's Prayer closed our meeting until we meet again on May 3.

Submitted by Barb Wical, Secretary

## **Circle 3**

Circle 3 met April 18, 2023 with 5 members answering roll call with a verse containing "grace". Nancy McName led the Bible Study which was part 2 of "How to Make Sense out of Suffering". How are we going to react when left in the dark when the lights go out? The Word of God can comfort us in time of suffering, but times of darkness will come in our life and we cry "why, God?" The scriptures say "happy is the man who never loses his faith in God." We are reminded of Psalm 23—He is always with us. We must trust, continue praying & praising God and telling the world about Jesus. Sometimes maybe God keeps us in the dark so that we keep our eyes on Him. Never doubt what God has shown you in the light. Trust in the Lord, lean upon the Lord, and leave it with the Lord.

Secretary & Treasurers reports were given.

President Darlene Woolley reminded us of the Oesterlen Services project this month.

She thanked everyone for the help received during the Lent meals. The Blood Drive was very successful receiving 52 units of blood.

Meeting closed with all praying the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Nancy McName, Secretary

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## **WOC May Collections**

Bibles and New Testament & Any type of crosses to hold or hang on the wall - new and used for NALC Disaster Response Needs. They can be Children's Bibles, Teen Bibles, Spanish Bibles, Large Print Bibles! Feel free to send underlined, and highlighted Bibles, DON'T HESITATE TO WRITE A MESSAGE OF HOPE IN THE FRONT FOR THE RECIPIENTS! Place in vestibule baskets! Any questions please contact Linda Jenkins, Chairperson.

# Mens Ministry

We met on April 26, 2023. Prayer was given by Kent Leininger. We started the meeting with discussion about the Community Picnic to be held at Grace in June. It was decided that the Men's group would furnish the hot dogs, buns, catsup, mustard, and cook the hot dogs. We will finalize the plans at our May meeting. The first half of lesson 1 was about Abram's calling and how things are similar in our family's lives. Second half was about similarities between family life and Church family life. Many of our shortcomings can cause conflict and division within the church if not addressed appropriately. Just like in family life, we need to put Jesus and his teachings at the center of our actions. We have to take into consideration what is best for the entire Church family and not just focus on our own priorities. If we are loving and forgiving, we can avoid conflict in our Church family. We use lesson 1's closing prayer as a group prayer. Our next meeting will be May 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

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## **Thank you's**

Thank you for all of the thoughts and prayers for my mom Shirley Umstead. After 2 ½ weeks @ Miami Valley Hospital and 2 months at Fair Haven she has been home recovering since March 4<sup>th</sup>. Still healing but doing great! Because of God's faithful people earnestly praying.

Thanks to all, Lisa Wright

THANK YOU to everyone who donated personal care items for the Fish Pond food pantry in March. There were 176 items collected in all. These items will be beneficial and appreciated by our clients in their daily lives. Thank you again for your generosity. Barb Wical

WOC would like to Thank the members for their Thankoffering Sunday donations. Those donations were used to help the NALC Disaster Relief.

Thanks to everyone for your thoughts, prayers, and cards. I continue with therapy as the healing of my hip progresses.

Marlene Regula

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## **Announcements**

If you are interested in attending the "**Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage**" seminar, please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church. There has not been a date set, we are trying to see how many people would be interested in attending.

### **Last Chicken Fry until October for AMERICAN LEGION**

**CHICKEN FRY**, Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. 627 East College Street.?? 1/2 chicken, coleslaw and roll \$ 10.00.?? Pre-sale tickets available at?? J. C. Village office as well as the J.C. Pro Hwd.?? Also available the day of the fry at the legion.?? Drive thru only.???? Thank you for supporting our veterans.



# Grace @ Prayer

## Standing in the Need of Prayer

Doris Jean Frieders (Jack's mom)  
Penny Borchers  
Greg Correct  
Alex Poeppelman  
Dwight Johnson  
Cliff Miller  
Adam Schulze  
Mike Clark  
Tim Herndon  
Ryon Elmore  
Mindy Steinbrunner  
Emma Homan (Krista Withrow's cousin's baby)  
Carolyn & Duane Helman  
Bob Klopfenstein  
Mark Hilbun  
Lisa Williams  
Cindy Herndon

Paige Schneider (Daniel & Amanda Schneider's daughter)  
Ashley Holthaus  
Logan Heath  
Rebecca Paul (Tanzania Child)  
Amy Grewe  
Autumn Regula (Rick & Deb Regula's granddaughter)  
Ron Middleton  
Peyton Wright (Jared & Caleigh Wright's daughter)  
Liz Westfall (Shirley Schindel's cousin)  
Rhonda Burch  
Cindy Davis  
Ava Wolf (Ken & Melanie Wolf's daughter)  
Dick Shaner (Sierra DeWeese's great-grandpa)  
Jane Wildermuth  
Dick Regula  
Adam & Rochelle Langdon  
And others we name in our hearts

### Parish Statistic: April 2023

#### Deaths

Carol Cromes joined her Father in Heaven on April 9, 2023.

## MEMORIAL DAY

**May 29, 2023**

### MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

**Emanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery 9:00 a.m.**

**Seven Day Baptist Cemetery 9:30 a.m.**

**Memorial Park Jackson Center 10:00 a.m.**

Speaker Courtney Lee (United States Air Force Veteran)



**PLEASE TAKE TIME TO  
REMEMBER AND GIVE THANKS  
TO THOSE WHO GAVE OF  
THEMSELVES.**

*Save the date!*

**Save the Date:** Picnic in the Park @ Grace Church parking lot and Tiger Trail Park. **Sunday, June 11, 2023** from 3:00 pm-6:00 pm. fun, food, crafts, Bible Stories, Music and Square Dancing (possibly), face painting, and bicycle safety checks by Shelby Co. Health Dept. (free bike helmets, while supplies last). Transportation provided (further details to follow). All are welcome to attend.

**Mark your calendars for VBS!** Join us as we become equipped with the armor of God to become **Keepers of the Kingdom** and stand strong in today's battle for truth. **July 17 - 21 from 6:00 pm- 8:30 pm** Snacks, games, crafts and God's word. To register your child or become a volunteer go to:

<https://gracelutheranchurchvbs2023.myanswers.com/keepers-of-the-kingdom>.



# Mission News & Opportunities

**\$50.00 A Month Challenge:** The Mission Committee is challenging 14 individuals to give \$50.00 a month to the Tanzania Orphanage and Outreach Ministry. The money will go towards hiring an additional assistant evangelist to visit even more remote villages in Tanzania and share the good news of God's love and mercy. Money will also go towards a purchase of a motorcycle and gas for transportation as well as educational materials for nutrition, first aid, small business management, and hygiene. Currently, there is a social worker and an evangelist involved with this ministry that provide education and share God's love to the people in the villages. We get reports on the progress and the touching stories that these individuals are a part of. Many new adults and children are attending church and Sunday School, and multiple baptisms have occurred because of this ministry. Churches are growing and lives are being saved. An additional evangelist will provide even more education and more growth of Christians to the people of Tanzania. An indicator is placed at the back of the church to show progress of our goal. We already have at least 4 individuals who have committed to giving. Please let any of the Mission Committee members know if you would like to see the reports that come in, if you would like to be part of this missionary project, or if you have any questions. Members include: Pastor Bert, Julie Klopfenstein, Greg Woolley, Scott Klopfenstein, Marilyn Kohler, Morganne Ackley, and Karen Hatfield. We are always looking for new members if anyone would like to join us!



## NALC Disaster

**Response** is responding to the Rolling Fork Mississippi tornado that was an EF-4, nearly 200 mph winds that devastated Rolling Fork MS and northern MS. A total of 26 people died and there is over 200 miles of devastation. The first truckload of emergency relief supplies has been delivered from our NALC Disaster warehouse at Peace Lutheran Church in Rosenberg TX and our Anglican partners will provide a donations center through their local congregation. The disaster warehouse at Peace Lutheran Church Rosenberg TX is now empty and additional warehouses are being emptied to serve in the community of Rolling Fork and surrounding areas. Your help is needed! To donate material goods, please contact Mary Bates at 740-509-1132 or [disasterresponse@thenalc.org](mailto:disasterresponse@thenalc.org). To provide support financially, please send your help to NALC Disaster Response, P.O. Box 860565, Minneapolis, MN 55486-0565. (Check Memo Line: "Disaster Response Fund") Thank you & God Bless

## Committee Reports

**Mission Committee:** The Mission Committee met on April 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm with 3 members present and with Pastor Wayne as guest. Pastor Wayne led the meeting with prayer. One Plus God submitted the application to the NALC to be accredited as a "ministry partner" of the NALC, with Tunsubilege (social worker) and Ndumieshi (evangelist) as global workers. The NALC will meet sometime in May to consider our application. The Tanzania Orphanage and Outreach Ministry No. 6 newsletter has been sent out to individuals and sponsors. If anyone would like to receive these that currently are not, please let a committee member know or the church office know and we will add you on the list. Letters received from the kids have gone out to sponsors. Ombeni could not succeed in getting 6 letters, but will keep trying. The kids are all spread out in different schools, so if he is unable to get the letters, he will write a report on how the kids are doing. Ombeni, who oversees the ministry in Tanzania and a great communication source for OPG / Grace Lutheran Church, is going to study his Master's in Education for 18 months and will graduate at the end of 2024. There is a great need for him to have data support at \$55.00 a month. We do have a sponsor that will donate \$165.00 to at least get him by for 3 months and then we can reevaluate funds to see about keeping this going for him. Pastor Wayne has upcoming presentations on the Tanzania ministry: April 23 at St. Johns Church in Greenville, May 6 at the Lutheran Conference, and May 14<sup>th</sup> at a Lutheran Church in New Castle, Wyoming. Pastor Wayne stated he could speak with those interested in going on the Tanzania trip, answer any questions, discuss setting concrete dates, etc. either before or after the 6:00 pm Mission Meeting on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Julie ended the meeting in prayer.  
Submitted by: Julie Klopfenstein



**Your feedback is needed** – The CAC is participating in the Fresh Eyes for Mission Summit, a process in conjunction with the NALC, that challenges us to reflect on who we are as a Church, where we have come from, and where our vision is for the future. While there are many parts to this process, one step is answering the following question, “why are you still here?” The CAC is asking all who have been members for 5 years or longer to list the top 3 reasons why you are still worshipping at Grace Lutheran.

We are asking that you take a moment to fill out the following form and return it to the Church, either by placing it in the offering plate, emailing the Church @ [jcgracelutheran@outlook.com](mailto:jcgracelutheran@outlook.com), or dropping it in the mail with your choices. **Deadline for submission is May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

In advance, thank you for your responses, and most importantly, for your involvement in making Grace Lutheran Church a wonderful Church home.

Regards,  
CAC

**Fresh Eyes for Mission Summit Questionnaire:**

Please list the top 3 reasons why you are still part of Grace Lutheran Church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership years: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason	Ranking (Top 3)
Location	
Relationships	
Church Building	
Bible studies/teaching	
Sermons	
Worship style	
Mission-outreach	
Pastor (s)	
Other	

We ask that once completed, please place in the offering plate, email the Church office @ [jcgracelutheran@outlook.com](mailto:jcgracelutheran@outlook.com), or place in the mail. **Deadline for submission is May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Thanks,  
CAC

# *Congratulations to our Confirmation Class of 2023*

## *May 7, 2023*

**Kyle Mark Burch**, son of Mark & Lindsey Burch, has as his confirmation verse **Joshua 1:9**, "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." His Godparents are Allen York & Penny Borchers.



**Lillian Mae Davis**, daughter of Luke & Kristen Davis, has as her confirmation verse **Proverbs 31:25 NIV**, "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come". Her Godparents are Kelly Gibson & Brandi Dettmer.



**Brooke Ann Byrd**, daughter of Alan & Jennifer Byrd, has as her confirmation verse **Psalms 40:1 NIV**, "I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry." Her Godparents are Bryan Byrd & Holly Jensvold.



**Kendall Leeann Hilbun**, daughter of Mark & Jessica Hilbun, has as her confirmation verse **Ephesians 4:32 ESV**, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving, one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." Her Godparents are Rick & Krista Withrow & Rob & Stephanie Hilbun.



**Andrew Jacob Stinebaugh**, son of Jake & Erin Stinebaugh, has as his confirmation verse **Joshua 1:9**, "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." His Godparents are Matthew Pinkerton & Jennie Stinebaugh.



## *Congratulations to our High School Graduates!*

*Sierra Lynn DeWeese*  
*Kaiden Lee Hinegardner*  
*Bryson Daniel Roberts*





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 7:00 pm Circle 2  Alex Knouff Jason & April Platfoot* Rob & Jodi Rowles*	<b>2</b> 9:00 am-11:00 am Cleaning  Tiffani Pence Jill Wildermuth Kevin & Jamie Gariety*	<b>3</b> 1:30 pm Circle 1 6:15-7:30 pm Gospel Gang 6:15-7:45 pm Catechism	<b>4</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band	<b>5</b>   Carson Davis Jackson Davis	<b>6</b>   Andrew Stinebaugh
<b>7 5th Sunday of Easter</b> 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:00 am LL Breakfast 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Confirmation 5:00 pm Boy Scouts upstairs/ Shelter House 6:30 pm Pro. Live. 4-H	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Education Meeting  Scott & Jodi Dickman*	<b>9</b>   Ethan & Kassie Ludwig*	<b>10</b> 6:00 am CAC Meeting 6:00 pm Choice Comm. 7:00 pm Choir Practice  Jerry Metz	<b>11</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band   Bob Klopfenstein Maddux Ackley	<b>12</b>   Aaron Leininger Doug & Tanya Hinegardner*	<b>13</b>   Kyle & Lindsey Barta*
<b>14 6th Sunday of Easter Senior Recognition / Mother's Day</b> 8:00 am Worship w/ Choir 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 6:30 pm Pro. Live. 4-H  Karen Hatfield Ayden Wiswell	<b>15</b> 7:00 pm Men's Group  Isaac Klopfenstein JoAnn Shade	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm Circle 3  Morganne Ackley Todd & Emily Ratermann*	<b>17</b> 6:00 pm Mission Meeting 6:30 pm Faith Concert Meeting	<b>18</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band	<b>19</b>   Mike & Mary Lee Couchot*	<b>20</b>   Ryan Burch Alaina Mann Dennis Weaver Jeff & Danielle Davis*
<b>21 Ascension of Our Lord</b> 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:00 am WOC Breakfast 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30-7:00 pm Luther League  Gary Russell	<b>22</b>  Dave Burch Joe Oakley Leland Paavola	<b>23</b>   John Sloan	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Faith Concert Meeting  Elena Platfoot Deb Wright	<b>25</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band   Julie Klopfenstein	<b>26</b>   John & Cheryl Janssen*	<b>27</b>   Barb Krugh Sandy Roach
<b>28 5th. Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Buckeye Farm Show Choir to Sing 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 11:30 am-? DeWeese Grad Party Fell. Hall	<b>29 Memorial Day Office Closed</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 5:30 pm-9:30 pm Community Faith Night  Brooke Gates Becky Roach Bennett Withrow Colson Withrow Jake & Melissa Westerheide*			

**GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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PASTORS

PHONE: 937-596-6516

FAX: 937-596-0516

E-MAIL:

jcgracelutheran@outlook.com



## ***The Mission of Grace...***

***Glorify God***

***Reach Out To The Unchurched***

***Accept And Share God's Love***

***Come Together In His Name***

***Equip People to Reach Christlike Maturity***

# ***May, 2023***



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