

# AMAZING GRACE

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 607 S. Main St., Jackson Center, Ohio 45334  
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## ***“Living the Good Life”***

We attended the NALC Pastors' retreat a few weeks ago. One of the sessions was entitled "Spiritual Health as a Grounding for Ministry in the Church." It was led by Pastor Ken Hohag. We felt that spiritual health isn't just for grounding in ministry. It also equips us for life. He began talking about the importance of prayer, time with the Lord. Though we all recognized it is important, most of us recognized there was room for improvement. We weren't entirely happy with our devotional time with Jesus. In Matthew 11:30 Jesus invites us, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." This spiritual and physical rest is important for our wellbeing. The challenges of life can interfere with our time with Jesus and yet we are blest and better equipped to face life when we have that time. Jesus is inviting you to come to him for the rest, learning and growing time. It is worth it to keep working at taking the time to be renewed and restored by him. Pastor Ken talked about anxiety being free-floating-fear causing fatigue. Time with the Lord helps that free-floating-fear to float away. It gives you strength for the journey.

Pastor Ken Hohag also shared with us his "Personal Survival Guidelines for Sanity." They are based on God's wisdom from his Word for us:

Sleep well, Ps. 127:2, "It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep"

Exercise well, Philippians 3:13-14, "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Pray well, Mark 1:35, "And rising early in the morning, while it was still dark, he(Jesus) departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed."

Eat Well, Mt 7:9-11, "Or which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish will give him a serpent? If you then who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in Heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

Play well, Mt 6:25, "Therefore, I tell you do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

We invite you to join us this month to rest in the Lord, eat well, sleep well, exercise well, pray well, and play. We also invite you to share a Bible verse that encourages you on your journey.

See You in Worship,

*Pastors Bert and Shelly Schultz*

## **Midweek Lenten Worship**

### **Ash Wednesday**

February 14 at 7 pm  
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

### **Lenten Worship Wednesdays**

February 21 – March 20  
6 pm Supper  
7 pm Worship  
Overheard Conversations by the Cross.



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***Deadline for the next  
newsletter is  
February 23***

# **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

## **Quarterly Congregational**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **January 21, 2024**

The January 21, 2024, annual congregational meeting was called to order by President John Pence. There were 45 members present. John opened the meeting with prayer. John welcomed our new CAC members Kent Leininger and Trent Platfoot and thanked our retired CAC members Seth Regula and Roger Detrick.

CAC officers for 2023 were announced: President-John Pence; Vice-President-Matt Kohler; Treasurer-Bert Regula; and Secretary-Tanya Hinegardner.

The Secretary's report from October 15, 2023, was approved as presented. Aaron Klopfenstein moved and Hershel Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer, Bert Regula, presented the quarterly treasurer's report as well as the year end report. Bert stated that 2023 was a strong year. Receipts for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter totaled \$256,921.44. Expenses for 2023 totaled \$239,852.68. The year end balance was \$71,017.70. Total receipts for designated offerings were \$19,807.00. The mutual fund balance for 2023 was \$73,696.54 which includes the balance of the capital improvement fund in the amount of \$23,875.00. Cassi Klopfenstein moved and Meghan Serr seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Matt Kohler gave an update on Fresh Eyes and they are looking for some younger members to be involved. They had two events in 2023.

Matt Kohler also gave an update on Match Day. It was very successful. The congregation donated \$6,145.00 and \$5,000.00 was matched. The money will be divided between Fresh Eyes, Tanzania, and updating the technology in the church office.

John Pence gave an update on the technology and website for the church. Part of the money from Match Day will be to provide new computers and programs for the church office. The goal for the church website is to have to up and running by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Bert Regula presented the proposed 2024 budget. There was an increase in the salaries for the pastors, secretary, and janitor. The deduction of \$4,776.00 for the pastors health insurance was designated for the pastors mission trip. Abby Pence moved and Scott Klopfenstein seconded a motion to accept the budget of \$285,141.00 for 2024. Motion carried. This budget will require weekly offerings of \$5,483.48 per week. 87% of this budget will be for current expenses, 7% for building and trustees, and 6% for benevolence.

Matt Kohler gave an update on the Mission Endowment. The balance was \$12,189.00. A balance of \$6,100.00 will be left in the fund and \$6,000.00 will be moved in the savings account for scholarships and local missions. The missions that will be donated to will be voted on at the second quarterly congregational

meeting.

Pastor Bert provided an overview of the Pastor's Report for 2023. He thanked us for the ministry that we have shared in the last year and gave thanks for the opportunity to serve together. The Growing The Community Through Faith group met and would like to have another concert in 2024. Pastor Shelly is working with a steering committee to have Lifewise at our local school for students to have release time for religious study. Lent will begin on February 14<sup>th</sup>. He also gave an update on the Mission Committee. They are planning a mission trip to Tanzania in June and will be there for a dedication of a church. There will be a pork dinner at the end of February for fundraising and there will be an appreciation dinner on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for the people that has supported the ministry of Tanzania.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Hinegardner, Sec.

# **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

## **Church Administrative Council**

### **Minutes**

#### **January 14, 2024**

John Pence, called the January 14, 2024, meeting to order with the following CAC members present: Scott Klopfenstein, Bert Regula, Garrett Serr, Pastor Shelly, Pastor Bert, Marcia Davis, Matt Kohler, Trent Platfoot, Kent Leininger, and Tanya Hinegardner.

John Pence had the devotion about hope.

Secretary's report was approved as presented. Matt Kohler moved and Garrett Serr seconded the secretary's report. Motion carried.

Bert Regula, presented the treasurer's report for December 2023. The year finished strong. Total receipts for December were \$28,671.76 and expenses were \$21,285.23. The ending balance in the checking account on 12/31/2023 was \$65,195.95. The ending balance in the saving account was \$40,792.06. Bert also presented the quarterly treasurer's report as well as the year end report. Receipts for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter totaled \$256,921.44 which includes current, building & trustee, and benevolence. Expenses for 2022 totaled \$239,852.68 which includes current, building & trustee, and benevolence. The year end balance for all three totaled \$71,017.70. The total receipts for designated offerings for the year was \$19,807.00. The Mutual Fund balance for 2023 was \$73,696.54 which includes \$23,875.00 for capital improvements. Marcia Davis moved and Kent Leininger seconded the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Election of 2024 Officers – Marcia Davis motioned and Kent Leininger seconded to keep the President, Treasurer, and Secretary the same as 2023. The officers are as follows: President – John Pence, Vice President – Matt Kohler, Treasurer – Bert Reg-

ula, and Secretary – Tanya Hinegardner. Trent Platfoot has agreed to shadow Treasurer – Bert Regula.

### **\*Pastor's Report for the month of January 2024**

#### **Pastoral Visitation for December**

Home and Office Visits	15
Ministry Meetings	15
Hospital Visits	3
Bereavement Visits	5
Funerals	Marge Beam 12/02/2023
	Jane Klopfenstein 12/23/2023
Baptism	Kora Sue Klopfenstein 12/25/2023

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

#### **Informational Updates**

- Pastor Shelly attended the NALC staff retreat December 4-7<sup>th</sup>
- Continue the weekly Life to Life discipleship experience – 4 people attending.
- Attended Shelby County Community Foundation Match Day celebration December 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **NALC Informational Updates**

- Thank you from Tunsibilege, social worker in remote villages of Bariadi, Tanzania – Will put in the newsletter and in the bulletin.

#### **Continuing Education**

- NALC Pastors Conference January 15-18<sup>th</sup>, Orlando, FL – Mike Mitchell will be on call. His phone number is (937) 726-8524.

#### **\*Old Business**

- Fresh Eyes update. They would like to get some younger people involved. Have some names of people to contact.
- Match Day Update. Total dollars received was \$11,489.00 and the Endowment Committee recommendation was \$1,489.00 to Fresh Eyes, \$5,000.00 to Tanzania, and \$5,000.00 to local facility needs. Scott Klopfenstein motioned and Marcia Davis seconded the recommendation of the Endowment Committee.
- Quarterly Congregational meeting agenda.
- Grace Lutheran website update/design estimate. We talked about the quote received by Pastor Shelly and it was decided to put a hold on it until John Pence, Matt Kohler, Kent Leininger, and Pat Shuff are able to meet about this.
- Update on Lifewise academy.

#### **\*New Business**

- Technology update.
- Update CAC contact information/meeting date and time/devotions/new committee assignment. Kent Leininger will be on the Worship Committee and Trent Platfoot will be on the Property and Trustee Committee. We agreed to change the monthly meeting to the second Sunday of each month at 12:00 pm.
- CAC approval of 2024 budget. Kent Leininger motioned and Scott Klopfenstein seconded the approval of 2024 budget.
- New members for Endowment Committee. Vote for 2 (Greg

Woolley, Kristen Davis, Matt Kohler). Scott Klopfenstein motioned and Kent Leininger seconded to elect Matt Kohler and Kristen Davis.

- Staff evaluations. The Executive Committee will set a time to meet in March.
- Vacation for Nikki – July 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> and August 25<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Committee Reports:**

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

**Education:** John Pence & Marcia Davis – No report received.

**Endowment:** Matt Kohler – Endowment committee met and have 3 names for two positions. 3-year term, Matt Kohler, Greg Woolley, and Kristen Davis. We also have a recommendation for the \$11,489 donated at Match Day

**Friendship:** Marcia Davis – No report received.

**Lay/Witness:** Bert Regula – No report received.

**Youth:** Garrett Serr – Luther League next meeting is January 21<sup>st</sup>. Gospel Gang will meet February 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Gospel Gang on March 6<sup>th</sup> due to Lenten Worship starting with supper at 6:00 pm and worship following at 7:00 pm.

**Worship:** No report received. The Lenten theme for this year is Overheard. There will be a meal before each Lenten service.

**Mission:** Scott Klopfenstein – No report received. An appreciation banquet will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Property & Trustee:** Roger Detrick, Scott Klopfenstein & John Pence – Maintenance was done on the snowblower. Scott said that the duct work in the parsonage has been completed. Another storm window has broken and it was suggested that Scott get a second quote for replacing the 18 storm windows. The light bulbs have been changed in each of the walkways. Scott will get a quote for the furnace.

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

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Tanya Hinegardner, Sec.

#### **Parish Statistic: December 2023-January 2024**

- ◆ Baptism of Kora Sue Klopfenstein on December 25, 2023
- ◆ Baptism of Hyatt Allan Doseck, Halden Reid Doseck, Hutton James Doseck on January 14, 2024.
- ◆ Baptism of Colton David Schmiesing on January 21, 2024.
- ◆ Baptism of Jeremiah Matthew Sponseller on January 28, 2024.

# Women of the Church

## Circle 1

Circle one met Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> with eight members answering roll call naming a Bible verse with the word “covenant” in it. Karen Hatfield began our meeting with a devotion, “The key to a Happy New Year,” describing that true happiness is when you are right with God and He has first place in your life. She also read poems, “His Unfailing Presence” and “Just One Request.”

Minutes of December meeting were read. Treasury balance is \$193.31. A check was given to Susan Ware for supplies purchased for flood buckets.

WOC project for January is the collection of greeting cards. In new business it was noted that our circle would be serving breakfast in March and would be responsible for the next funeral meal. Members were also reminded that sewing days are February 15 and March 21.

Karen Hatfield led the Bible study on Mary of Bethany. We can show our love for Jesus by putting feet on our faith. We need to do what we can in service to others.

Next meeting is February 7th. The meeting was closed by praying The Lord's Prayer.

Acting Secretary,  
Susan Ware

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## Circle 2

We started our new bible study the Twelve Women of the Bible. Marcia started our lesson on Eve and finding contentment in the truth.

Eve had everything she could possibly need or want, until Satan deceived her into thinking that she needed the one thing God told her she shouldn't have. The same way Eve was tempted is the same way Satan tempts us today, to focus on what we “don't” have instead of what we do have. Jesus was also tempted, but he used God's word against the devil. We too can use God's word and truth to prepare our hearts and minds to fight back against temptation.

Roll call was answered by 8 members telling us what they would serve Jesus if He came to their house.

There was no old business.

New business:

We received a thank you note from Marge Beam's family for the funeral dinner and \$100.00 donation.

Circle 2 has the WOC breakfast for the window treatment January 21<sup>st</sup>. Many volunteered to bring casseroles, pastries, fruit and drinks.

January collection is greeting cards. Contact Linda Jenkins if you have any questions.

In February, we have cookies for the Alpha Center and health care kits for the NALC disaster response. List of items is in your book. February 15 is sewing day at 9am.

Our next meeting is February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Elsa will lead our next

bible study.

With no further business, we closed with the Lords Prayer.

Secretary,  
Elsa Stengel

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## Circle 3

Circle 3 met January 16, 2024 with 10 members answering roll call with a verse containing “time”.

Anne Shroyer led the Bible Study on Paul's letter to the Philippians. In his many travels he planted Christian congregations in cities where the message of Christ had taken root. He wrote letters back to congregations he had helped establish which was his way to continue walk in faith with those believers. He commended these churches in sharing good news with fellow man who chipped in to support each other and work together. Even though there are always conflicts, we should listen to perhaps leaving new ideas and pray with each other for continued support as we work in God's Kingdom thanking God for his prescence & teaching us in his ways.

Secretary & Treasurer reports were given. Treasures balance is \$157.64.

Business addressed: Cookies for Alpha Center— February 4th, Collection of health kits this month, Sewing day—February 15th, Breakfast meal— February 18th, Lenten meal—February 28th (sandwiches & drinks).

Anne treated us with warm cherry cobbler served with beautiful cloth napkins.

Meeting closed with praying Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Nancy McName, Secretary

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## WOC Collections

Cookies for Alpha Center any kind of cookies are excepted.

Please bring to the church kitchen by February 4th and label for the “Alpha Center”. Any questions please contact Darlene Woolley, chairperson.

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### Health Care Kits for NALC Disaster Response

Barb Wical, Chairperson

One bath towel

One wash cloth

One bar of soap in original wrapping

One toothbrush

One pack of dental floss

One tube of toothpaste (or 2 travel size)

One comb

One deodorant

Two travel sized shampoos

One nail clipper

\*pack all items in 2 gallon ziplock bags (WOC will purchase these - just place all items in a grocery bag and deposit in vestibule basket)

**Sewing Day** February 15, 2024 at 9:00 am

60" x 80" blanket tops 60" x 80" sheets for backing

Bring scissors, large needles. COVERED DISH LUNCH



# Grace @ Prayer

## Standing in the Need of Prayer

### Immediate Need of Prayers:

Gloria Kipker, Rudy Copeland, Don & Shirley DeWeese, JR Ammon, Lyle Lampy, Alan Borchers, Chet & Judy Sosby

### Prayers for Long-Term Situations:

Doris Jean Frieders, Dwight Johnson, Tim Herndon, Mindy Steinbrunner, Emma Homan, Adam & Rochelle Langdon, Autumn Regula, Lisa Williams, Amy Grewe, Alex Poeppelman, Cliff Miller, Mike Clark, Paige Schneider, Logan Heath, Tony Hart, Bob Klopfenstein, Cindy Herndon, Gary Bankert, Penny Borchers, Chris Burch, Starlett Clement, Julie DeVine

### **WOC Board Meeting Minutes**

WOC Board met on January 10, 2024 with 7 members present. The meeting was opened with prayer and a reading from Philippians 4:4 by Darlene Woolley. We should not be anxious about anything but present our requests to God with prayer, petition, and thanksgiving.

Toni Leininger reported a balance of \$8,113.16 of which \$4,193.50 is the drapery fund.

Minutes from WOC general meeting on November 26, 2023 was read by Karen Hatfield. They were approved as read.

It was reported that one senior angel could not be reached. It was agreed that his request of canned goods that were bought would be donated to the food pantry.

No reports for mission action and community committee. Linda Jenkins reported that there were 12 cookbooks sold after the Thanksgiving eve service and Christmas in the village. It was decided that we can again add a cookbook in the kitchen kits we will be collecting or the NALC Disaster Response later this year.

Marcia will ask the CAC for permission to put donation jar at the back of the church for people who cannot attend the WOC breakfasts to donate money for the drapery fund.

Toni Leininger and Linda Jenkins are looking for places to purchase draperies.

The WOC will provide meal for February 28th Lenten services:

Circle 1— desserts

Circle 2— Soup

Circle 3— sandwich and drinks

Next board meeting will be held April 10th. Meeting was closed with all praying the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Karen Hatfield, secretary

### Announcements

American Legion 4 Piece- Chicken Dinner, our famous coleslaw, french fries and roll. \$10.00 per dinner. Saturday, February 3rd from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the J. C. AMERICAN LEGION Hall. **DRIVE THRU ONLY. Pre-Sale Tickets \$ 9.00 at:** J.C. Pro Hardware, Village of Jackson Center Office. Please Support Our American Legion and Son's of the American Legions.

**The Backpack program** is asking for donations for the program. They are asking for fruit cups, applesauce cups, pudding cups and peanut butter cups, small individual boxes of cereal, & small individual microwave meal cups (mac & cheese cups). There is a labeled box in the south vestibule for your donations.

Lay & Witness is **in need of packages of diapers** for the new baby bags that the Pastors deliver to the new born babies in the congregation. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

JC Methodist Church **Soup & Sandwich supper** Sunday, February 18th from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm freewill donation to support JCMC an a capital campaign to purchase two new furnaces. **New Horizon Concert** will follow at 6:15 pm with area youth sharing their Love of God and revive your enthusiasm for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

### **Special Olympics & Down Syndrome Association**

**Euchre Night Cards 4 A Cause** will be Friday, March 15, 2024 at the Palazzo in Botkins. Doors open at 6:15 pm, play begins at 7:00 pm. pre-registration entry fee is \$30 per person and includes 2 free drink tickets until March 8. After March 8, registration is \$35 per person and no free drink tickets.



## Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 4:	Luther League Breakfast
Wednesday, February 7:	Gospel Gang
Sunday, February 11:	Tanzania Mission Trip Breakfast
Sunday, February 11:	CAC Meeting
Monday, February 12:	Education Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 14:	Ash Wednesday Worship
Thursday, February 15:	WOC Sewing Day
Sunday, February 18:	WOC Breakfast
Wednesday, February 21:	Lenten Meal & Worship Service
Sunday, February 25:	Mission Committee Pork Meal
Wednesday, February 28:	Lenten Meal & Worship Service

### ***Worship Assistants for Lenten Evening Services***

	<b>February 21 7:00 pm Lent Service</b>	<b>February 28 7:00 pm Lent Service</b>	<b>March 6 7:00 pm Lent Service</b>	<b>March 13 7:00 pm Lent Service</b>	<b>March 20 7:00 pm Lent Service</b>
<b>Organists</b>	Cheryl Burch	Cheryl Burch	Cheryl Burch	Cheryl Burch	Cheryl Burch
<b>Acolytes</b>	Julia Burch	Maycee Kipker	Julia Burch	Brendan Serr	Archer Copeland
<b>Crucifers</b>	Julia Burch	Maycee Kipker	Julia Burch	Brendan Serr	Archer Copeland

### **2024 Tanzania Mission Trip Fundraiser - Annual Pork Meal:**

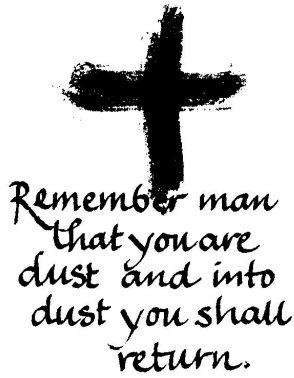
On **Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** the Mission Committee and the Grace Lutheran Church members attending the Tanzania Mission trip will be hosting the annual pork meal. The money raised will be used to divide up amongst the individuals attending the trip to cover costs. Those attending from Grace Church are Pastor Bert and Pastor Shelly, Abby Pence, Grace and Gabrielle Woolley, and Darrel and Macy Klopfenstein. The Mission Committee is thankful for these individuals visiting Tanzania, checking in on the Orphanage and Outreach ministry, and building those relationships with our Tanzania Christian brothers and sisters. That face to face, "boots on the ground" is extremely valuable, not only to the people of the Bariadi District, but to us as a congregation! Tickets can be obtained from anyone of the individuals going on the trip, any of the Mission Committee members, or get them from the church office. The **\$10.00 meal will be served from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm** and includes pork loin, baked potato, green beans, and a roll. **Meals are carry-out only** and you can don't even need to get out of your car, as we will collect tickets and distribute the meals on the south side of the church. We will also deliver to anyone that has a hard time getting out as long as we now about it and have an address. Thank you in advance!

### **Orphanage and Outreach Ministry Appreciation Banquet**

On Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm, the Mission Committee will be hosting an Appreciation Banquet for those that have supported the Tanzania Ministry or for those interested in learning more about it. The banquet will have a few speakers and will include a free meal. If anyone is interested, please RSVP by Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> so that we can prepare for the amount needed for the meal. RSVPs can be sent to the church office by phone or by email at [jcgracelutheran@outlook.com](mailto:jcgracelutheran@outlook.com) or can be given to any of the Mission Committee members. We cannot say enough about your continued faithful giving over the years and the enormous impact your support is having on the 24 students, the remote villages, and the entire ministry! **THANK YOU!**



# Grace at Worship ...



## Ash Wednesday

The general tone for worship during Lent should be reflective without being somber. Simplicity in liturgical elements and hymnody is conducive to setting the appropriate tone. As part of the reflective nature of this season, there is an emphasis on repentance. In the early church, Lent was the period when new believers experienced the catechumenate in preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. In this season, we are not only reminded of Jesus' faithful and intentional journey to the cross, but also of his calling for us to "take up the cross" and follow him.

### Worship Servants for Sundays in February 2024



	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 4	Transfiguration of Our Lord February 11	Ash Wednesday February 14	First Sunday in Lent February 18	Second Sunday in Lent February 25
<b>Lessons</b>	Isaiah 40:21-31; Ps 147:1-11; 1 Corinth. 9:16-27; Mark 1:29-39	Exod. 34:29-35; Ps 50:1-6; 2 Corinth. 3:12-13, 4:1-6; Mark 9:2-9	Joel 2:12-19; Ps 51:1-13; 2 Corinth. 5:20b-6:10; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21	Gen. 22:1-18; Ps 25:1-10; James 1:12-18; Mark 1:9-15	Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16; Ps 22:23-31; Rom. 5:1-11; Mark 8:27-38
	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
<b>Organists</b>	Nancy McName	Cheryl Burch	Nancy McName	Cheryl Burch	Nancy McName
<b>Acolytes</b>	Brendan Serr	Julia Burch	Archer Copeland	Brendan Serr	Archer Copeland
<b>Crucifers</b>	Brendan Serr	Julia Burch	Archer Copeland	Brendan Serr	Archer Copeland
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Kristen Davis	Patty Mann	Darren Myers	Shelby Fite	Fritz Serr
<b>A/V</b>	None	Ian Stengel Preston Serr	None	None	Cortney Copeland Carter Klopfenstein
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>		<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBA	Maycee Kipker		TBA	TBA
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Karen Hatfield	April Platfoot		Kent Leininger	Matt Kohler
<b>Communion Preparation</b>	8:00 Service	10:30 Service		8:00 Service	10:30 Service
<b>A/V</b>	Kay Frieders	Karen Hatfield	None	Jill Ludwig	Kay Frieders
<b>Song Leaders</b>	Krista Withrow Matt Kohler	Kassie Ludwig Rick Sailor	None	Kay Frieders Greg Woolley	Matt Kohler

## Men's Ministry

We met on January 22, 2024. Meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Bert. We continued our discussion about Rebekah and Issac's twins Esau and Jacob. We talked about sibling rivalries and how parents can add to that issue by showing favoritism to one or the other. Issac favored Esau and Rebekah favored Jacob. We also talked about how rivalries can affect our church family. From there, we moved on to "Discipleship Matters" which was the discussion about Martha and Mary's priorities during Jesus's visit to their home. This and the applying of the ointment to Jesus's feet led to discussion about what our priorities should be. We need to focus more on Jesus and less on the everyday activities around us. Our next meeting will be February 19th at 7:00 pm. We will be serving a Lenten meal on March 13th. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.  
Submitted by Dennis Weaver

## Thank you's

Dear Church members,  
The Fish Pond Food Pantry would like to offer heartfelt thanks for all of the support during the year 2023. You may have given food items, personal care items, baby items, laundry supplies, or money to help us assist many people in our communities that have a need. We have been very blessed this past year as you have provided us with all the resources to take care of those in need. We are very grateful for each one of you that have helped us this year. Thanks also to all volunteers who gave their time whenever needed.  
Barb Wical, Director of Fish Pond Food Pantry

Thank you to Darrel Klopfenstein for 6 years of faithful service to the Endowment Committee.

Chris and I want to say Thank you for the wonderful Christmas present. We are at a loss for words for how generous everyone in this church is. We have been so truly blessed to be members of this church. Thank you for everything. God bless everyone.  
Chris & Rhonda Burch

## Midweek Lenten Worship

Ash Wednesday      February 14 at 7 pm      Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion  
Wednesdays      February 21 – March 20  
6 pm Supper  
7 pm Worship      Overheard Conversations by the Cross

Do you suppose it is possible that various people who were involved in our Lord's Passion ever had the opportunity to talk with one another about it? Perhaps even *right then*, while the events were happening? Can you imagine what they might have said? People like:

- **Malchus**, whose ear was cut off and healed at Gethsemane, and **Mark**, who ran from the Garden naked.
- **Barabbas**, the criminal released when Jesus was condemned, and **Caiaphas**, the high priest who led the cries for his release.
- **Pontius Pilate** and **Procula**, his wife.
- **Simon of Cyrene**, who carried our Lord's cross, and the **Centurion** who compelled him to.
- **The Two Thieves** who were crucified with Christ.
- **Mary**, our Lord's grieving mother, and **John**, the "beloved disciple," who took her into his home.

If you could have listened to conversations like those, what might you have OVERHEARD?

With piercing insight and dramatic reality, these Lenten services invite us to eavesdrop on the concerns and conflicts of people whose lives were touched ... and changed ... by the crucifixion of Jesus Christ--just as our lives have been.



## **Committee Reports**

**Lay Ministry/Witness Committee:** Lisa Wright opened the first meeting of our 2024 Lay Witness Committee with a devotion titled 'Depends on Whose Hands It's In.' Lisa's devotion reminded us to put our trust, our cares, our hopes, dreams, and goals, and all that is important to us into the nail pierced hands of Jesus- hands that secured our priceless gift of salvation-" in whose hands I want to be.'

Kent Leininger joined us to answer some questions about the Backpack Program. He said there is a need for the backpack items listed in the bulletin, especially for microwaveable Mac and cheese cups, and he added that Aldi's has the best price for this product. This is a much needed service and we thank you for your contributions.

President Linda Jenkins reported that Pat and Michelle Shuff (baby Quin) and Joe and Emma Sponseller (baby Jeremiah) have received baby bags to welcome their new little ones. We offer a big 'thank you' to our members for the diaper packs that have been donated for this project.

Buckets, buckets- we need buckets-5 gallon buckets with lids. Our bucket Sunday was such a success last year -(thanks to our congregation) that we are going to do it again next September. If we can get donated buckets it saves a big expense - so if anyone works in a business or has contacts with someone who disposes of five gallon buckets (preferably with lids) we could sure use them. Just bring them to the church and we'll prepare them for distribution.

Finally in planning other projects for 2024, members felt that we would like to meet with a representative from the Fresh Eyes Ministry to see if we might help promote or serve in their efforts. We also felt it might be helpful to visit Mercy Mission House (the homeless shelter in Sidney) to learn about their program and determine if we might plan a project that could benefit them. Linda also asked us to think about reviving the former newsletter content 'Meet the Family of.'

There being no further business we closed with the Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 17 and Susan Ware will share devotions.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Ware, Secretary

**Worship Committee:** The Worship Committee met on January 8, 2024 with the following members present. Rick Russell, Nancy McName, Jennifer Woolley, Pastor Shelly and Toni Leininger.

The meeting was opened with prayer. The Children's Bell Choir was discussed, and a schedule is being prepared so that a more consistent schedule will be kept.

The Christmas services were discussed, and everyone was of the opinion that everything went well this past year.

Adult Choir is going well, and Rick reported that they will soon be starting to practice for their spring music cantata.

Everything is also going well with the Praise Band, and new music will be introduced soon.

We will be adding some new volunteers to the AV department; Kent and Toni Leininger will take care of instructing them as to how the equipment works. They will then be paired with seasoned AV volunteers.

The upcoming season of Lent was then discussed. Services will be every Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M. with supper at 6:00 P.M. before the service. Different Groups in the church will be asked to serve the meals again.

Service times for Lent are as follows:

February 14 – Ash Wednesday

March 24 – Palm Sunday

March 28 – Maundy Thursday

March 29 – Good Friday – Tenebrae Service

March 31 – Easter with two services at 8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M., with Sunday School at 9:15.

The next Worship Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. As there was no further business to be discussed, the meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Toni Leininger



# Lenten Word Search

O U G S Q N R R N O I T A T I D E M G B I T J T  
K R Q N R X X S O N N J S V E G T Y I L S Z X J  
N E M O W E V D H W Y T H F N O M O V R I Z Y A  
Y F O I X A H U P L S N K J T T K A E E N Y X S  
A L H T G P G T G I R E N R R M A G U T S E F J  
D E X C Z O X D O R Z L N G Y Q F O P S R N O R  
S C Q E C P F K Q G J H U L I H A O S A E O K E  
R T O R X R O E T K N D W N N Y S D O E P M E P  
U I M R X A R G L S F I K O T A T F M R P E E E  
H O C U P Y T N H X S R V V O D I R E E U T W N  
T N M S P E Y I Y R G F I R J N N I T V S A Y T  
Y H K E M R D R Y I A C E S E U G D H E T N L E  
D E J R R S A E A I Y G L B R S A A I R S O O N  
N V R V I W Y E D I L X Q O U M N Y N E A D H C  
U H O R K K S T S U K K X F S L N U G N L E N E  
A A S H W E D N E S D A Y Y A A U T Z C Q S J N  
M E O Y Q S M U U W P I A Q L P F P A E H E G M  
T Q O N F S Y L T B R K D J E G K Z K Y V C E R  
E Y J R U O N O T N Q B N N M H X J M C V S Y S  
P U C M N R D V A F J T U S C R I P T U R E N W  
D G S Y X C K W F H V O V E E C N E N I T S B A  
M A R D I G R A S T E H O L Y S E A S O N C A D  
T V G W L H K A N O I X I F I C U R C Q F U Y P  
I Y W W F O U R T H C E N T U R Y R D P T M F R

Serving Others  
Crucifixion  
Fasting  
Give Up Something  
Last Supper  
Meditation  
Repentance  
Sins

Abstinence  
Donate Money  
Fat Tuesday  
Good Friday  
Lent  
Palm Sunday  
Resurrection  
Volunteering

Ash Wednesday  
Easter  
Forty Days  
Holy Season  
Mardi Gras  
Prayer  
Reverence

Cross  
Entry Into Jerusalem  
Fourth Century  
Holy Week  
Maundy Thursday  
Reflection  
Scripture



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band 8:00 pm Dartball Jackson South @ Harvest Baptist	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>       Scott Dickman
<b>4 5th Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:00 am LL Breakfast 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 pm Worship 4:00 pm Life to Life 7:00 pm Creative Clovers 4-H	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm Circle 2      Adrienne Klopfenstein (Young)	<b>6</b>      Dwight & Marilyn Johnson*	<b>7</b> 1:30 pm Circle 1 6:15 pm-7:30 pm Gospel Gang 6:15 pm-7:45 pm Catechism 7:00 pm Choir Practice   Ryan Sailor Holden Downing	<b>8</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band 8:00 pm Dartball Wapak Salem @ Jackson South   Gary Byrd Jack Frieders Emma Sponseller Bryson Roberts	<b>9</b>      Rachel Couchot Lauren Wildermuth Judy Sampson	<b>10</b>      Christy Koenig
<b>11 Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> 8:00 am Worship w/ Choir 9:00 am Miss. Breakfast 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 12:00 pm CAC Meeting 6:30 pm Pro. Live . 4-H  Mike Couchot Gracelyn Westerheide	<b>12</b> 6:00 pm Education Committee Meeting      Cynthia Johnson Randy & Gina Pence*	<b>13</b>      	<b>14</b> 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship   Lisa Wright	<b>15</b> 9:00 am WOC Sewing Day 5:30 pm Praise Band 8:00 pm Dartball Jackson Twp. @ Jackson South   Jarrod Lee	<b>16</b>      Joyce Regula	<b>17</b> 9:00 am Community Faith Night Meeting
<b>18 1st Sunday of Lent</b> 8:00 am Worship w./ Communion 9:00 am WOC Breakfast 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm-7:00 pm Luther League  Chris Mann	<b>19</b> 7:00 pm Men's Group    Caroline Frieders Jill Ruppert Rita Ware Ada Klopfenstein	<b>20</b> 7:00 pm Circle 3	<b>21</b> 6:00 pm Lenten Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Worship   Shannon Roberts	<b>22</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band 8:00 pm Dartball Jackson South @ Wapak UCC   Andrew Monnin	<b>23</b>      Caitlyn Barhorst Russ Davis Marc Gloyeske	<b>24</b>      Randy Pence
<b>25 2nd Sunday of Lent</b> 8:00 am Worship w/ Choir 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 4:30 pm-6:00 pm Mission Committee Pork Dinner  Christen Ware	<b>26</b> 10:00 am- 3:00 pm FISH    Andrew Paavola Bob Zorn Brent Russell	<b>27</b>      Chad Davis Maleah Kipker Maria Keller Lori Wiswell Carly Lotz	<b>28</b> 6:00 pm Lenten Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	<b>29</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band 8:00 pm Dartball Jackson South @ Anna		

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## ***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***

# ***February, 2024***



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