

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church:

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*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
February 4, 2024
10:30 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024 ~ 10:30 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

The psalmist declared to God, “For what you have done I will always praise you in the presence of your faithful people”. We, too, gather to praise the Lord. Welcome! We believe God has a purpose for you being with us today and our desire is to be an instrument in helping you discover and fulfill that purpose. You are always invited to come and worship with us. Please let us know if the pastor or we may be of service to you in any way.

Focus for Today

God takes a special pleasure in those people who fear him, or as Luther said, who “fear, love, and trust God above all things.” This is what it means to have no other gods before him. Have you not heard? His steadfast love is extended to those who fear him, who wait or hope only in him. And we have good reason for this hope, since we have been saved through the gospel of Christ. So we preach his gospel and suffer for his sake. Yet we do not depend upon these works, since we fear and hope in God alone. Rather this trust impels us to preach his good news, for the one we fear and love and trust has sent us to do so, even as he was sent to preach. Trusting in him, we go out with renewed strength, making disciples of the nations.

As We Gather

** Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

“Jesus Does”

Praise Band

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*Gathering Song **“10,000 Reasons”**

*The Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, †Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Hear the word of the Lord from 1 John 1:8-10...

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

(Silence for personal confession)

P: Most merciful Father,

C: Although in Christ our light has come, too much we prefer the darkness of sin. We do not let your holy light shine in our lives so others may see our good works and glorify you. We are deeply sorry and humbly repent. Forgive us and fill us with your Spirit. Give us once again the joy of your salvation; and send us out to proclaim your strong saving love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Arise, shine, for your Light has come; and the glorious mercy of the Lord shines round about you. In the name of and by the authority of our Savior Jesus Christ, I announce the forgiveness of your sin. May the Holy Spirit strengthen your faith, heal your spirit, and equip you to proclaim the greatness of the Lord until he comes in glory. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

All: Immortal and everlasting Father, only through your power are the weak made strong and the ill made whole in body, mind, and spirit. Strengthen us through your Son’s presence in Word and Sacrament that we may share your grace to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:21-31

ESV pg. 600

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147:1-11 (read responsively)

147 Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

4 He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

6 The LORD lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!

8 He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills.

9 He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.

10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,

11 but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27
Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

ESV pg. 957

*Holy Gospel: Mark 1:29-39
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

ESV pg. 836

Time for Young Disciples

Pastor Shelly

Sermon "So Many Questions"

Pastor Shelly

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

* Prayers of the Church and The Lord’s Prayer

Sending
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Blessing

Ministry and Mission Moments

*Closing Songs

“Joyful (The One Who Saves)”
“The Only Name (Yours Will Be)”

Enter to Worship --- Depart to Serve
Ministry and Mission Moments

There is a **box for offering** located on a table at the back of the church for you to drop off offerings. All offerings are greatly appreciated to help the church stay in good financial standings.

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!

WOC February Collection is **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.

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. Thank you for all of the contributions, we greatly appreciate all of them.

2024 Tanzania Mission Trip Fundraiser - Annual Pork Meal:

On **Sunday, February 25th** 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 3rd 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 25th 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 icgracelutheran@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!