

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 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!

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.

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Office hours: 8 am to 1 pm. E-mail: jcgracelutheran@outlook.com~

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Facebook: JC Grace Lutheran

John Pence, Church President; Nikki Tontrup, Secretary; Rhonda Burch, Janitor:

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There is one God,
the Father, from whom are all
things and for whom we exist,
and one Lord, Jesus Christ,
through whom are all things
and through whom we exist.

1 Corinthians 8:6

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
January 28, 2024
Traditional Service
8:00 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 28, 2024 ~ 8:00 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

St. Paul declares: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it". Each of you is indispensable to this gathering called the church. 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.

As We Gather

God has raised up patriarchs, judges, and prophets. Few listened to them. Still, he promised to raise up a prophet like no other. Foreshadowing a bright cloudy day in the future, Isaiah says that we are to listen to him. He is the living redemption that the psalmist declares, the one Lord and Christ, who created all things and in whom "we live and move and have our being". This is who the prophet tells us to listen to, and indeed, even the demons listen and obey.

Gathering

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

** Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome

*Opening Hymn: **"Lift High the Cross"**

LBW # 377

The Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Silent time for reflection and confession of sin

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

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: Merciful One, grant to your church the heart to hear your compassionate healing grace as we gather around your word. Then, as you will, grant us courage and compassion to bear that life-giving word of grace to a world in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem "The Joyful Spirit in My Song"

Adult Choir

Word

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

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

ESV pg # 161

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111 (read responsively)

111 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

³ Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

**⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.**

⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

⁸ they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

**⁹ He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!**

**¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!
Praise the LORD!**

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

ESV pg # 956

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (sung)

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Glory to you, O Lord (sung)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

Children's Message

Pastor Bert

Sermon

Pastor Bert

*Nicene Creed (stand)

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

*The Prayers of the Church (stand)

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Thanksgiving

We give thanks for the saving Word and all God's gifts.

Gathering of the Gifts

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|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| *The Offering Hymn | "Take My Life, that I May Be" | LBW # 406 |
| *The Offertory | "Doxology" | LBW # 565 |
| *Offertory Prayer | | Page 67 |

Pastor: Merciful Father,

All: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us- our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

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

*The Benediction

Mission and Ministry Moments

*Song	"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"	LBW # 294
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*Sending

P: Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Organ Postlude

Enter to Worship --- Depart to Serve

There is a **box for offering** located on a table at the back of the church, for you to drop off offerings. Ways of giving on our website there is a link if you click on the online giving tab, is set up with Vanco electronic giving. All offerings are greatly appreciated to help facilitate the Lord's work here.

Jeremiah Matthew Sponseller, infant son of Joe & Emma Sponseller, will be **baptized at the 10:30 worship service** this morning. Sponsors are Seth Regula and Kathleen & Derek Linhart. Proud grandparents are Bert & Marlene Regula and James & Lori Sponseller. The altar flowers are in honor of Jeremiah's baptism. Welcome to the Grace Lutheran Church family!

Year-end giving statements are available for pick up at the back of the church. If you use offering envelopes for your church giving you have a statement available, all are individually labeled.

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 accepted. 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.

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!

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