

# Tidings of Grace

January 27, 2022



## **Lesson of the Week 1 Corinthians 1:18**

– “Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?” God’s ways are certainly not the world’s ways, including the way God tells us to manage the resources He’s given to us. The world says, “hold on, hold back and gather up.” Jesus says to store up treasure in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and where no thief breaks in to steal. Whose way do you think is best? What is wiser: the wisdom of the financial gurus or the foolishness of God?

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## **COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT – February 11**

Your prayers are vital to its success!

Dear Grace Family,

One of my favorite bible verses related to leading a congregation is Proverbs 29:18. It states: **“Where there is no vision, the people perish”** (KJV)

The footnote of the English Standard Translation of this verse gives us even more insight into the meaning of this verse. It states: “Where there is no **prophetic vision** the people are discouraged.”

This verse tells us the importance of vision. A lack of vision is discouraging and even lethal to an organization.

Interestingly, the Hebrew word we translate as “vision,” is הַזֶּן (“hazon”) which has a range of meaning that includes both “*securing the needful things against a foreseen need or opportunity,*” and “*a revelatory vision granted by God to chosen messengers.*”<sup>1</sup>

***We see the dual nature of the vision that is required by a church as it seeks to fulfill its mission.***

First, the vision must assist the organization in securing what is necessary to fulfill its mission in the face of current and future obstacles and opportunities. A deliberate strategic planning process assists any organization in assessing and acquiring what is necessary to fulfill its mission.

Second, we see that for the church, strategic planning go beyond mere intellectual, organizational, and administrative processes. A church must actively seek ***to receive a vision granted by God.***

On February 11, your church council will engage in a day long retreat to begin the process of developing a strategic plan that aligns with our mission, vision, and values.

I am asking you to do two things in preparation. First, please familiarize yourself with the “Mission, Vision, Values” statement that you find printed below in the tidings.

Second, and even more importantly, I ask that you ***pray daily*** that your church council would hear the voice of God as it develops a strategic plan that will guide Grace over the next three years. We seek a plan that is truly from Him and not merely the result of our human efforts.

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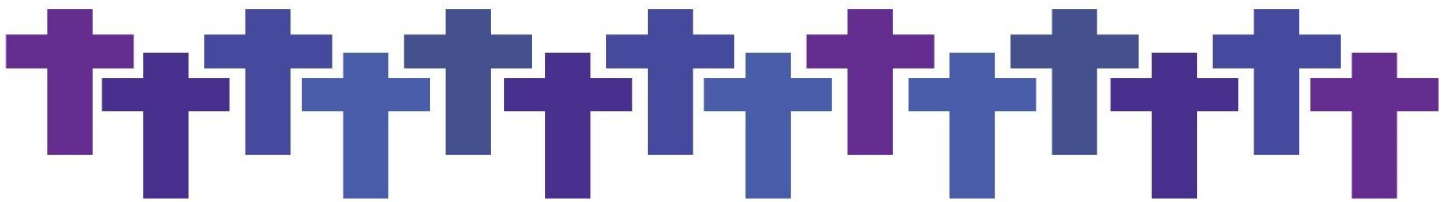
<sup>1</sup> Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament Vol 1. P.275

I close with one more important matter. In Habakkuk 2:2, God instructs his prophet to “**Write the vision and make it plain.**” That is my hope and prayer for this process. That we will develop a clear vision, with specific goals and strategies, write it down, communicate it effectively, and faithfully execute it in fulfillment of the mission God has given to us.

I greatly appreciate your dedication to Christ and His bride as we seek to hear and then write God’s strategic vision for Grace Lutheran Church.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Phil



## The Mission, Vision, and Values of Grace Lutheran Church.



### **Mission:**

To make disciples of Jesus Christ baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Mt. 28:19)

### **Vision:**

Grace is a fellowship of worshiping disciples of Jesus Christ centered on the Word of God.

Our Vision statement contains five crucial elements:

**Fellowship:** As a “family size” church, fellowship is a strength of our congregation. We regularly gather for a fellowship meal after each Sunday worship service. Time is reserved in team meetings and bible studies for this essential aspect of our life together. During these times we listen to one another’s stories, joys, needs, and concerns. In doing so, we, “bear one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2)

**Worship:** The Worship of God is central to our life together at Grace. While not a confessional document of our faith tradition, we concur with a line from the Westminster Catechism advising that the main purpose of life is to “glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” As such, we endeavor to practice liturgical worship in the Lutheran tradition that glorifies God, proclaims the Word of God, and assures congregants of the promises of God. At Grace, we often say “Worship is the Most Important thing we do.” This includes what happens at 10:30 on Sunday morning and extends to worship as a way of life.

**Disciples:** A Disciple is one who has fully absorbed his master's teaching. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we seek to embrace, fully absorb, and practice his truth. This is not merely intellectual ascent but instead is a transformational connection. To truly know truth is to know The Person Jesus Christ. It is to be in communion with him.

**Jesus Christ:** Jesus is Lord of all and Lord over us. The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed focuses on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Luther explains as follows in the Small Catechism:

“He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, and has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil, not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death.

“He has done all this in order that I might be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as he is risen from the dead and lives and reigns for all eternity. This is most certainly true.”

**Word of God:** The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life, “according to which all doctrines should and must be judged.” (Formula of Concord, Epitome, Part I).

## Values:

The following values define our life together:

### Grace:

Grace is our first name! It is that quality of Christ which we experience in his unconditional love toward us and which we must offer to others, even with those with whom we disagree. Grace enables us to see our fellow disciple as a child of God, one who is loved infinitely by God in Christ. Grace is evidenced by our actions toward one another, our words to one another, and our words about one another.

### Faith:

Faith is two-part, and both are equally important. The first part is belief—belief that God exists, and that He loves us and sent His Son into the world to save us. Faith isn't a vague hope that God might exist; it is a definite belief that what the Bible says about Him is true. The Bible says, “Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

The second part of faith is commitment—a definite decision not only to believe in our minds that Christ can save us, but to put our lives into His hands and trust Him alone for our salvation. True faith not only believes Christ can save us, but actually trusts Him to do it. The Bible says, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith” (Ephesians 2:8).

### Trust:

Congregations move at the speed of trust. Trust is an intentional attitude toward another, saying, “Until you prove otherwise, I will trust you, trust what you say, and trust will do what you say.” As members of this congregation we are committed to being worthy of the sacred trust of one another.

### Accountability:

Accountability is the flip-side of trust. It is the motivating mindset of those who have “bought in” to

the mission of the church. Trust and Accountability go hand in hand to make our congregation function effectively. Accountability is taking ownership of my words and actions related to the area of ministry in which I participate. It is the commitment to act in a trustworthy manner, to mean what I say, and to do what I say I will do.

### **Authenticity:**

Authenticity is personal integrity in action. As members of this congregation, we seek to demonstrate the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) in our actions with one another and those outside of our congregation. We will be who we say we are, act honorably towards one another, and seek to build one another up in the body of Christ.

### **Empowerment:**

The mission of the church shall be executed through empowered lay-led ministry teams. The number of ministry teams and the ministry responsibility of each team shall be designated by the church council. Ordinarily each team shall have a team leader and a council coach. (However, if the position of team leader cannot be filled, the council coach shall serve as both team leader and council coach.)

The team leader shall recruit team members from the congregation, regularly convene team meetings, preside at said meetings, report team activity to the council coach, and regularly seek the input, wisdom, and guidance of the council coach.

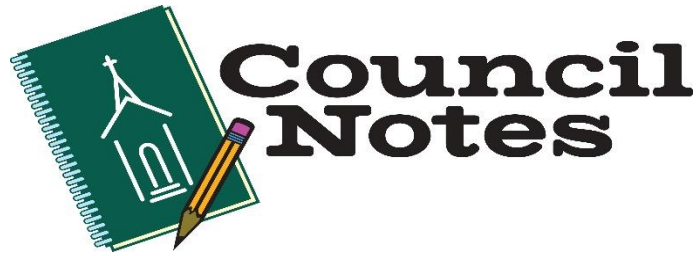
### **Courage:**

Endeavoring to be a spiritual mature expression of the body of Christ, we will practice the courage to speak the truth in love. (Eph. 4:15)

As council members, we will have the courage to speak the truth in love to one another. We will raise our concerns and questions during council meetings rather than engaging in “side conversations” outside of the meeting. Once the council has decided a matter, even if we personally disagree, we will support the majority decision for the sake of the unity of the church.

As members of the congregation, we will have courage to speak the truth in love to one another. We will seek to maintain witness of our congregation in peace, unity, and purity. We will avoid anonymous communication, gossip, and speaking behind one’s back. When disagreements arise, we will follow the resolution model presented by our Lord in of Matthew 18:15-20.





## **\*\*Grace Council Meeting Update**

Grace Council met on Monday, January 16, 2023. Here is a summary of the key discussions and decisions.

This was our first Council meeting with our revised Council structure. We now have six Council liaisons instead of eight. The teams that have been combined (Fellowship and Prayer and Shepherding are now *Connections* and Benevolence and Evangelism are now *Outreach*) are looking for new ways to work together.

In 2022, our tithes and offerings were almost \$27,000 more than we'd budgeted for the year. In addition to that, Grace received \$38,000 in gifts designated for specific ministries or purposes. Our income exceeded our expenses by more than \$28,000. Thank you for your ongoing support of Grace and its ministries! God is good to each of us, and He is good to Grace. May we, as individuals and as a congregation, continue to be faithful stewards of all He has given us.

We have had a couple of employment issues. Sam Crouch has resigned as our groundskeeper. We will be looking for a replacement in the spring. Gisela Crouch has been out for 2 weeks with some health issues. She returned to work on Monday, January 23. Please keep her in your prayers.

The Worship and Music team would like to begin training children of appropriate age to serve as acolytes.

Our first quarter Congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, February 12 immediately after the service.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



\*\*Indicates new information

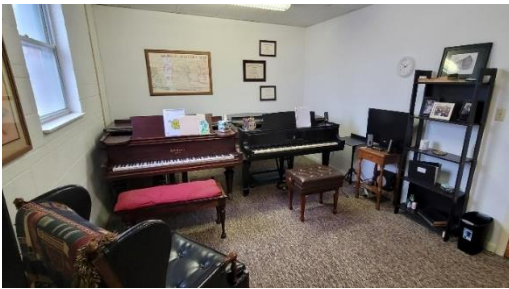
**\*\*Upcoming Congregational Meeting**: We will hold a constitutionally mandated congregation meeting on Sunday, February 12 immediately after the service. Please plan on attending.

**Donations needed**: The Benevolence team is keeping the tree up so it can be filled with donations of hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and items to keep the homeless warm. We will deliver them to Jeremiah's Letter in Dayton.



## **Come celebrate with us!**

Star City Music Studios will have an **open house at our new location on Saturday, February 4th, from 1-5pm**. We'll have refreshments, and a brief program to thank everyone who helped us during the move. We are located at 323 North 11th Street in Miamisburg. From Central Avenue, turn on 10th Street, which will dead end at our building. - Aaron

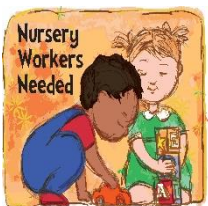


*Thank You!*

**\*\*Thank you so much!!** Your prayers, cards, and phone calls meant so much to me during my surgery and recovery. Praise God! The doctors believe they have gotten all the cancer. ~Gisela



**\*\*Pastor Chuck is still in the hospital.** He said is doing much better, but any exercise drops his oxygen saturation. He thanks everyone for their prayers. ~Sandy Rice



**\*\*We are in need of nursery workers!** Please sign up or let Wanda know your availability.



**The Friday Morning Bible Study and Prayer Group** will be using the study book by Melissa Spoelstra entitled "Jeremiah ~ Daring to Hope in an Unstable World". The study is on Friday mornings from 9:30 am - 11 am and begins on Friday January 6, and continues through Friday February 24. If you would like a book ordered for you or if you have any questions, please contact Roseann Costantino at 937 434-2012 or Roseanncostantino@gmail.com.

**Adult Sunday School 9:00 am** Join us as we take up Esther...for a Time such as This...in our Sunday morning adult bible study. Stop and get coffee on the way in and bring your Bibles!

**The Men's Fellowship at Grace** is meeting the first and third Saturdays of the month in the church at 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. We have had a great time getting to know each other, praying for each other and studying the scriptures. Oh, and did I forget coffee and "Bill's" donut holes? If you haven't joined us, we would love to get to know you. We're very informal, friendly and you would fit right in. If you have any questions about the fellowship please ask John Michael or Bill Slusser. See you there.

**\*\*The Under Somethings** will meet at the Terhune home on Friday, February 24th, at 6:30pm. Please read Chapters 4&5 of "Mere Christianity." Contact Aaron for more details: 724.322.2449.

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study**: Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm, join us as we delve deeper into the scriptures. Study is by email and you can attend in person or online. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/595370970?pwd=MGQzK0VVZXkwUFF4VzJ6aXJjMGhTQT09>

Meeting ID: 595 370 970

Passcode: 023793

**Will Not Meet Feb. 1st**



# SERVANT *Schedule*

## Communion Servers

Jan - Nancy Oliver & Becky Reinhart

Feb – Kathy Gross & Carol Koles

	<u>Assistant Minister</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
Jan 29	Sandy Rice	John Jackson	Jean & Debbie
Feb 5	Joe Costantino	Steve Gross	& Debbie
Feb 12	Shirley Schryver	Steve Hedlund	& Debbie
Feb 19	N'Anne Knight	Tom Teague	& Debbie
Feb 22		Steve Gross	
Feb 26	Sandy Rice	Aaron Mood	& Debbie

## Sunday School

	Young Learners (Prek—K)	Disciples (Early Elementary)
Jan 29	Wanda & Steve	Cassie
Feb 5	Susan & Roseann	Jean
Feb 12	Diane & N'Anne	Julie
Feb 19	Mechelle & Ava	Lea
Feb 26	Wanda & Steve	Cassie

## Sunday, January 29

**Sermon:** Pastor Steve Nicolai

**Greeter/Usher:** The Johnsons

**Communion:** Nancy Oliver & Becky Reinhart

**Children's Nursery:** ? & Debbie

**Videographer:** Bryant Marker

**Choir Director:** Cynthia Michael

**Organist:** Aaron Mood

**Pianist:** Samee Griffith-Mood

**Violinist:** Bill Slusser



# January BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Nancy Smith
- 8 – Brenda Crawford (Admin)  
Hans Schmellenkamp
- 16 – Bob Snider
- 18 – Nita Petticrew
- 23 – Marie Tejada
- 25 – Fuji Walter



# February BIRTHDAYS

- 4 – Roseann Costantino
- 6 – Dale Bonsteel
- 7- Jenny Kantzer
- 10 – Samee Griffith-Mood  
(Pianist)
- 16 – Janet Dovayak
- 21 – Becky Reinhart  
Gary Petticrew
- 22 – Wanda Petrenio
- 27 – Mary Kay Reed  
Ava Marker



# february

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship Service/Livestream 11:30am Fellowship 12:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30am Friday Women's Prayer and Bible Study	<b>4</b> 10:00am Men's Fellowship
<b>5</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship Service/Livestream 11:30am Fellowship 12:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>9</b> 3:00pm Benevolence Team Meeting	<b>10</b> 9:30am Friday Women's Prayer and Bible Study 12:00pm Worship Team Meeting	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship Service/Livestream 11:30am Fellowship 12:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30am Friday Women's Prayer and Bible Study	<b>18</b> 10:00am Men's Fellowship
<b>19</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship Service/Livestream 11:30am Fellowship 12:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 12:01pm Ash Wednesday 7:00pm Ash Wednesday	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:30am Friday Women's Prayer and Bible Study 6:30 Under Somethings at Terhune home	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship Service/Livestream 11:30am Fellowship 12:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b> 7:00pm Vespers Service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30am Friday Women's Prayer and Bible Study	<b>4</b> 10:00am Men's Fellowship

## Our Member's Prayer Concerns

\*Denotes Grace Member

**Garenne**-healing (Bill Slusser)

**Andy Teague**-healing for Andy and comfort for Tom and Renee (Pastor Phil)

**Young Mother and family**-recovery from head shot

**Gail**-recovery from stroke (Pam Mehlhorn)

**Chris Brown**-comfort and healing (George and Becky Reinhart)

**Marsha Steffen**-healing from a fall (Joyce Mears)

\***Bill Wheeler**-healing

\***Keegan**-healing (Pat Terhune)

**Gisela**-continued healing

\***Ed & Lynda Bragg**-healing and strength

**AC and Oddie Wyatt**- comfort and healing(Sally Manning)

**Billy Gibbs**-healing(Sally Manning)

**Nancy Herbert**-healing

**Wendy Baldwin**-comfort and healing (Nancy Herbert)

**Jon**-continued healing(Mary Kay Reed)

**Carol**-recent diagnosis of cancer

**Emily**-(Joe Costantino)

\***Matt Pfeiffer**-continued healing

**Greg Ravlin**-healing and peace (Annemarie Stein)

**Barbara Kaiser**-healing from cancer (Jenny Kantzer)

**Dan**-healing of broken femur (MaryKay Reed)

\***Don Stamm** – healing from dental procedure

**Dr. Rubino** - starting chemotherapy for cancer (Pam Mehlhorn)

### Those with Continuing Health Concerns:

**Janet Dovayak** (Shirley Pappas), **Sally Fiste** (N'Anne Knight), **Farralee Baldwin** (Becky Reinhart), **Mary Welker** (Sandy Rice), **Dale & Georgene Bonsteel** (Becky Reinhart), **Fran McDaniel** (Roseann Costantino), **Robin Connellee** (N'Anne Knight), **Cindy Puskar** (Becky Reinhart), **Gary Rothermel** (Annemarie Stein), **Yvonne Becker** (Joyce Mears), **Clayton Daniels** (Cassie Pfeiffer), **Pam Mehlhorn**, **Barbara Baker** (Pastor Phil), **Mike Stein** (Shirley Schryver), **Janet Zerger**(Cynthia Michael), **Judy Yeager**(Shirley Pappas), **MacKenzie Aitken** (Lea Ravlin), **Eddie Smalley**(N'Anne Knight), **Tom Gustin** (N'Anne Knight), **Pam & Allen Smith** (Julie Hohulin), **Don Slokowski** (Shirley Schryver), **Scott Placke** (Shirley Schryver)**Tim Scott** (John Michael), **Lilyanna** (Diane Jergens), **Cooper and his Wife** (Diane Jergens), **Cathryn Schultz**(Samee Mood), **Judy and Doug Rettich**(Joyce Mears), **Glenn Zink** (Joyce Mears), **Afghanistan Christians**(Cynthia Michael), **Gary Ross** (John Michael), **Jake and Cayden**(Shirley Schryver), **Duane Jastremski** (Barbara Baker), **Julie Oelke** and **Herb Steger** (Lea Ravlin), **Bob Hoff** (Don Stamm), **Lorraine** (Jim and Erika Wattrick)**Carol Goodpastor/Chinn**(Lea Ravlin)

## Our Member's Prayer Concerns

Continued

### Family and Friends in our Hearts:

Paul Yeager (The Yeager's)

### Those Confined to Care:

Those Serving in the Military: Josh Weiland, Zach Ravlin (Lea Ravlin), Matthew Spence (Lea Ravlin), Tyler Dovayak (Shirley Pappas) Jake Bradosky (Becky Reinhart), Jake Byorth (Becky Reinhart), Keegan Terhune (Becky Reinhart), Dylan Johns (Nancy Oliver)

