

## **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church:**

Office: 937-596-6516 ~ (*Open M – F, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm*) ~ Fax: 937-596-0516

E-mail [jcgracelutheran@outlook.com](mailto:jcgracelutheran@outlook.com) ~ WEB Address: [www.jcgracelutheran.org](http://www.jcgracelutheran.org)

Pastor Bert Schultz ~ Cell phone: 715-418-1037

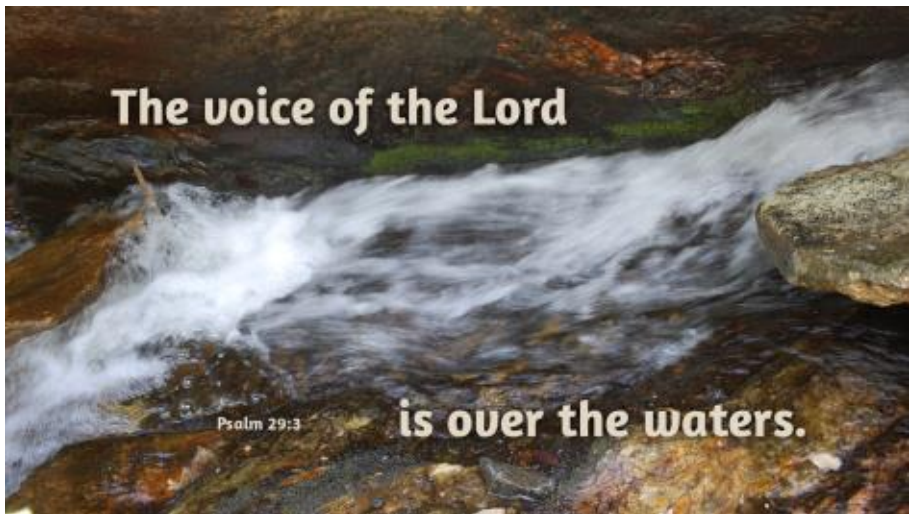
Pastor Shelly Schultz ~ Cell phone: 715-418-1761

~ Email: [jcgracepastor@outlook.com](mailto:jcgracepastor@outlook.com)

Nikki Tontrup, Secretary Rhonda Burch, Janitor: John Pence, CAC President:

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**The voice of the Lord**

Psalm 29:3

**is over the waters.**

*Baptism of Our Lord  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Jackson Center, Ohio  
January 7, 2024  
10:30 am*

Welcome to  
**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Baptism of Our Lord**

January 7, 2024 ~ 10:30 A.M.

**Welcome to Our Guests**

Happy New Year! And a blessed Epiphany Sunday and season! We have come to worship the King, just as the wise men did do long ago. 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**

The chaos of our sinful lives requires the creator Spirit as much as the dark face of the deep did in the beginning. The light that God spoke into existence was good; the light that he speaks into our lives through Christ excels over all good things. He brings life through our baptisms into the death of his Son. He brings order out of the chaos of sin so that we may walk with him in a newness of life. Because we have died with him, we shall also be raised like him. As he did in creation, God speaks this recreation into existence. For the voice of the Lord thunders over chaos, over sin, over death, bringing peace through Christ. And we are left with a word on our lips: "Glory!"

**As We Gather**

*\* Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

***"Mary, Mary"***

Children's Choir

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

## Gathering

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

\*Gathering Song **“Go Tell it on the Mountain”**

\*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: Heavenly Father, in Jesus' baptism you declared him to be your beloved Son and set him apart as your agent of grace for your creation. May we who are baptized into his life also be sent as agents of grace in your world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Word

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

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5

ESV pg. 1

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29 (read responsively)

**29** Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**2** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

**3** The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.

**4** The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

**5** The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**6** He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

**7** The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

**8** The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**9** The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

**10** The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

**11** May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

**Praise the LORD!**

Second Lesson: Romans 6:1-11

ESV pg. 942

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Holy Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

ESV pg. 836

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

Time for Young Disciples

Pastor Shelly

Sermon

**"The Powerful Voice of the Lord"**

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                    **“Joy to the World”**  
  **“King of My Heart”**

**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.

**Volunteers needed** at the Sidney F.I.S.H. store. If you are interested in volunteering, stop and fill out an application at the store.

**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. There is a labeled box in the south vestibule for your donations.

In need of **volunteers to help take down Christmas decorations** at the church **Today**, Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. If you are available, please come out and help.

**Altar Flowers** If you would like to provide altar flowers for a special occasion, you can do so by ordering them from your chosen florist. Please have them delivered to Grace Lutheran and placed on the altar. Also notify Nikki, in the church office, regarding the bulletin announcement of the occasion.

**Benefit for Julie DeVine** at the Heidout Restaurant will be January 12<sup>th</sup> & January 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am-5:00 pm. There will be a bake sale, 50/50 raffle and additional raffles to help with medical bills, travel expenses, home bills, meals, etc.

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!

