

# AMAZING GRACE

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 607 S. Main St., Jackson Center, Ohio 45334  
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## Practicing Gratitude

"Oh, thank you! It's perfect!" We hope you heard that often this past month as gifts were given and received. Giving thanks and writing thank you notes is an artform. Words of appreciation and gratitude let the giver know that the gift was received and was a blessing to the recipient. The Bible author James encourages us to give thanks to God, for every perfect gift comes from his hand. (James 1:17). We practice giving thanks to God for all His blessings, gifts, and provision on a daily basis, "O give thanks unto the Lord, for His mercy endures forever."

Or perhaps you heard these words when the gift was opened, "I don't need one of these; this isn't what I wanted." The disappointment is evident in both words and facial expressions. Like I mentioned earlier, words of appreciation and gratitude are words to be practiced. Often in life, we receive unexpected occurrences, events, or items that are not so welcomed. So, it is the apostle Paul who reminds us that we are to give thanks in all circumstances for that is the will of God for us (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). When we find ourselves in difficult circumstances, we question God to what He was thinking. How could this happen? Where are you, Lord? Yet the Lord encourages us even then to give thanks and to look for the blessings in the situation. We cannot know how the situation may have changed, or what may have occurred, or how the future may have been different. We can only know that the Lord God who created all is omnipotent; He is in charge/control of it all. Even in difficulty the apostle Paul reminds us again that Christ Jesus is working for the good to those who love Him. (Romans 8:28)

So, we practice giving thanks to God for all things, in all circumstances. We practice appreciation and gratitude to the Giver, seeing the good, seeing the blessings, seeing the future with hope, seeing what is good in the gift. We encourage you at the end of each day to give thanks to God for three things received during the day. And then to offer up a "thank you" to God. And if it was a person who blessed you this day, a quick word or note of appreciation and gratitude becomes a blessing to the giver.

Giving the Lord thanks for YOU. See You in Worship,  
*Pastors Bert and Shelly Schultz*

*Many, many thanks for your kindness to us with your Christmas greetings and the gift from Grace. The Lord has truly showered blessings upon blessings to us here in our ministry with you.*  
*Pastors Bert and Shelly*



### NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.

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***Deadline for the next  
newsletter is  
January 26, 2024***

# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Church Administrative Council Minutes

### December 10, 2023

President, John Pence, called the December 10, 2023 meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Marcia Davis, Roger Detrick, Scott Klopfenstein, Bert Regula, Seth Regula, Garrett Serr, Pastor Shelly and Pastor Bert were present. Tonya Hinegardner and Matt Kohler were excused.

Pastor Bert offered devotions based on Phil. 4 vs 4-7. Pastor shared in this season of activity, we are reminded not to be anxious over anything, but to pray and give thanks to God. Through these actions we are granted peace that passes all understanding while our hearts and minds will be guarded by our loving God.

Garrett Serr made a motion to accept the secretary's report as presented. Roger Detrick seconded. Motion carried. Bert Regula presented the treasurer's report. Marcia Davis made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Garrett seconded. Motion carried.

The Pastor's report was as follows:

#### **Pastoral Visitation for October**

Home Visits	9
Office Visits	7
Ministry Meetings	18
Hospital Visits	2
Bereavement Visits	2

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

#### **Informational Updates**

- Attended Women's Conference at Calvary Baptist Church Bellefontaine, Nov 4
- Attended NALC Mission District Deans' Conference Nov 7-9 in Dallas, TX
- Hosted SON Ministry Missionary to Latvia David Michael Carrillo Nov 11-12
- Began the second weekly Life to Life discipleship experience Nov 12
- Hosted the Community Thanksgiving Service Nov 22

#### **NALC Informational Updates**

- NALC Pastors Conference Coming up January 15-18

#### **Vacation**

- December 26-Jan 1
- Pastor Bob Forsberg leading worship December 31 at 9 AM
- On Call for Pastoral Emergencies in Adam Poe.

#### **Continuing Education**

- NALC Pastors Conference January 15-18

The pastors noted 1<sup>st</sup> English church in Wapakoneta had a large majority first vote (90%) to leave the ELCA and join NACL. More information will follow. Jews for Jesus have contacted the pastors regarding a Communication for Life live stream to be presented from Israel on December 12, 2023.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Fresh Eyes is one of the charities included in the Community Foundation funding project for Grace. At present Grace Lutheran Church has a balance of \$4,600+. Matching funds will be added to our total up to \$5,000. These funds will be divided among three projects as determined by the endowment committee.
- Pat Shuff has assisted Pastor Shelly in developing an outline for the church's website. Several suggestions were made for potential persons or agencies who would be able to provide design and updating to the site. Pastor Shelly will make contacts and report back at a future meeting.
- Possibilities for Grace church parking lot to be a campsite for the 2024 April Eclipse were discussed. A local group will be doing site measurements, adding our location to a list and will provide supplies as needed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Grace Lutheran is collaborating with several other local churches to investigate the opportunity to provide LIFEWISE, an off-campus project involving religious education for Jackson Center students. The project would require private funding and parental support. The classes would take place one time per week and potentially be held in Family Life Center. Garrett Serr made a motion to contribute \$150 to the investigation of this project contingent upon approval from the JC school administration and upon at least two other churches contributing \$150 as well. Bert seconded. Motion carried.
- The agenda for the January 21<sup>st</sup> Congregational meeting was discussed.
- The members of CAC opted to NOT place a paid Christmas ad in the Sidney Daily News based on the limited the fact it is only published two times a week and has diminished subscribers.
- The election results were read. Bert Regula made a motion to accept the election results. Garrett Serr seconded. Motion carried.
- The potential 2024 budget draft was presented. The budget will need to be brought before the new CAC in January and to the congregation for approval at the first meeting in 2024. CAC went into Executive Session to discuss budget issues. The meeting resumed at 6:11 pm.
- It was noted CAC and Sunday School elected officers will be installed on December 17, 2024 at both the early and late services.

Committee reports were as follows:

**Choice:** Tanya Hinegardner- No report received.

**Endowment:** Matt Kohler- Members of the Endowment committee will be attending Match Day in Sidney on December 15th.

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

**Lay/Witness:** Bert Regula- Lay Witness met on November 26<sup>th</sup> and discussed projects that were completed for the year and how they might make changes if they were to do again. Discussed 2024 possible projects. Only project that will be repeated is the flood buckets. Next meeting will be Sunday, January 28, 2024 after the second worship service.

**Youth:** Garrett Serr- Luther League received donations from their 2 breakfasts during fellowship time, and their bake sale during the Thanksgiving Eve Community Service. Monies received were used to purchase gifts for two different families each with 3 children. The Luther League went shopping on 12/3 to buy the gifts for the children and gift cards for the parents. They will be wrapping the gifts on 12/10. After shopping, the Luther League went out for pizza together. Gospel Gang Christmas Caroling was a huge success there were 15 youth in attendance to carol.

**Worship:** Seth Regula- No report received.

**Education:** John Pence & Marcia Davis- No report received

**Mission:** Scott Klopfenstein- No report received.

**Property & Trustee:** Roger Detrick, Scott Klopfenstein & John Pence- No report received.

President Pence offered thanks to Roger Detrick and Seth Regula for their faithful service to CAC and Grace church as they have now fulfilled their terms on the CAC.  
The meeting adjourned will all praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Davis, acting secretary

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### **Committee Reports**

**Mission Committee:** The Mission Committee met on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> with 4 members present and Pastor Wayne as guest. Pastor Bert led the meeting in prayer. Emails to student sponsors have been sent thanking them for their contributions, updating them on their finances of their sponsorship, and inviting them to an Appreciation Banquet on March 3rd. The Banquet will be held from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm that Sunday and will include a meal. This banquet is not limited to sponsors, but to anyone else interested in hearing updates about the ministry. More details will be planned after the first of the year and more information will be coming out for those wanting to attend. The Tanzania Orphanage and Outreach newsletter was also sent out to individuals. If individuals have not received this and would like to, they can contact the church, a member of the Mission Committee, or One Plus God. There has been an extension for anyone wanting to attend the Tanzania trip at the end of May 2024. The extension is now through January 9th. Grace Lutheran Members attending are Pastor Bert and Pastor Shelly, Darrel and Macy Klopfenstein, Abby Pence, and Grace and Gabrielle Woolley. Pastor Wayne will be attending the trip as well as 4 other individuals from other churches. 2 of these individuals are Pastor Jon Horn from New Hampshire, Ohio Community Church and his daughter Morgan Lambert. Pastor Wayne would like to hold an information session on January 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm with those attending. The committee is looking at dates to hold the annual pork meal to raise money for Tanzania. 2 of the 24 students from the Tanzania ministry need sponsors, as those individuals that were sponsoring them are no longer able to. The cost to sponsor a student for the year is \$1,200. The Tanzania Orphanage and Outreach ministry is the recipient of a grant for \$19,578.55 from Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland,

OH. This grant money must be used specifically to buy land, build, and equip churches in the villages in the Bariadi district. Money from the Mission funds were donated to the Yinger family, who had a house fire recently. Pastor Wayne ended the meeting with prayer. Submitted by: Julie Klopfenstein

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# Grace at Worship ...



## Feast of the Epiphany

The word Epiphany refers to a "manifestation" or "appearance" of God. Throughout this season of the Church year, we hear many stories of how Jesus manifested the power of God in his earthly ministry, teaching with authority, performing miracles, casting out demons, and healing diseases. We celebrate this Season of Light by giving glory to Jesus Christ, the True Light who has come into the world.

<b><i>Worship Servants for Sundays in January 2024</i></b>				
	<b>Feast of the Epiphany January 7</b>	<b>Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 14</b>	<b>Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 21</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 28</b>
<b>Lessons</b>	Isaiah 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-11; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12	1 Sam 3:1-10; Ps 139:1-10; 1 Corinth 6:12-20; John 1:43-51	Jonah 3:1-5,10; Ps 62; 1 Corinth 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20	Deut 18:15-20; Ps 111; 1 Corinth 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28
	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
<b>Organists</b>	Nancy McName	Cheryl Burch	Nancy McName	Cheryl Burch
<b>Acolytes</b>	Archer Copleand	Brendan Serr	Julia Burch	Archer Copeland
<b>Crucifers</b>	Archer Copeland	Brendan Serr	Julia Burch	Archer Copeland
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Seth Regula	Rick Russell	Julie Klopfenstein	Scott Klopfenstein
<b>A/V</b>	None	Preston Serr Ian Stengel	None	Carter Klopfenstein Cortney Copeland
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBA	TBA	Maycee Kipker	TBA
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Jen Woolley	Tom Woolley	Darlene Woolley	Michael Hecht
<b>Communion Preparation</b>	8:00 Am	10:30 Am	8:00 Am	10:30 Am
<b>A/V</b>	Jill Ludwig	Karen Hatfield	Kay Frieders	Jill Ludwig
<b>Song Leaders</b>	Krista Withrow Greg Woolley	Kay Frieders Matt Kohler	Jill Ludwig Rick Sailor	Kassie Ludwig Greg Woolley

# Women of the Church

## **Circle 1**

Circle one met Wednesday, December 6, 2023 for a Christmas lunch at La Pizzeria in Russells Point. Eight members and two guests, Pastor Bert and Gary Byrd, enjoyed the fellowship and meal together. Karen Hatfield read a Christmas devotion and a poem, "Christmas Giving" for our opening. Paula March shared A Cup of Christmas Cocoa reading with everyone and then gave a treat for each of us. Marcia Holthaus also shared a Right and Left game and treats for everyone. Other members also shared something special with all in attendance. Our business meeting was suspended for this meeting.

Secretary,  
Barb Wical

## WOC January Collections

Please remember to save your greeting cards for the WOC January collection. Linda Jenkins is the chairperson for this project. Please put in the Church vestibule baskets, collection will take place the whole month of January.

## Men's Mission

We met on December 18th. Meeting was opened with prayer by Dennis Weaver. The discussion was about Church and family triangles. Our tendency is not to address an issue directly with the other person involved, but instead we draw someone else into the situation forming that triangle. This rarely solves anything but most often turns into multiple triangles involving many people who really should not have been involved in the issue at all. This causes much conflict and division within individual families or within the Church family.

From there we moved into Session 4 which is "Dad Always Liked You Best!" This, of course, relates to Genesis 25:19-28 which is the story about Issac, Rebekah and their twins Esau and Jacob. This will be our study and discussion at next month's meeting which will be moved to January 22nd at 7:00 pm. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Dennis Weaver

## Thank you's

**Members of Grace** thank you so much for baking a turkey, a pie or saying a blessing. Because of you we were able to serve 456 people for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Thank you for the bottom of our hearts.

Wanda Wildermuth, Chairperson Thanksgiving Dinner

**A Huge Thank you** to all who participated in purchasing items from our Angel Tree. The families and seniors whom received the gifts were very much appreciative of them.

Friends & Family of Grace,

Thank you so much for all of your prayers, cards, hugs and support to my family while we grieve the loss of my mother Jane Klopfenstein. Thanks to Circle 3 Women's group for the delicious meal served. We loved it all and are thankful for the caring, giving women that you are. Also thanks to Pastor Bert for leading the service and to Pastor Shelly for leading us in the "unplanned" music during the service. Special thanks to Kay Frieders for accepting the challenge of playing the music I wanted. God had other plans and wanted the service a cappella! I'm sure Mom was smiling down hearing some of her favorite songs being sung.

Thank you all! Love,

Amy Regula/ The family of Jane Klopfenstein

**Thank you very much** for the Christmas cards and gifts. I greatly appreciate them. Thank you for your generous Christmas gift of money. I am blessed and thankful to have all of you as my Church family. Blessings to all of you!

Nikki Tontrup

## Announcements

**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.

**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.

**CHICKEN FRY** Jackson Center American Legion Chicken Fry, January 6th from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. 627 East College Street. 1/2 chicken, coleslaw, french fries, and roll \$ 10.00. Presale tickets available at J. C. Village office as well as the J.C. Pro Hwd. Also available the day of the fry at the legion. Drive thru only. Thank you for supporting our veterans.







# Grace @ Prayer

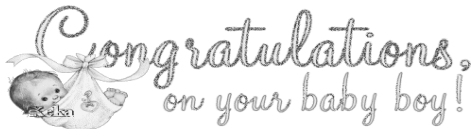
## Standing in the Need of Prayer

### Immediate Need of Prayers:

Gloria Kipker, Rudy Copeland, Barrett Starr,  
Julie DeVine, Don & Shirley DeWeese,  
JR Ammon, Barb Wiswell, Barb Elsass,  
Lyle Lampy, Alan Borchers

### 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



**Congratulations** to Patrick & Michelle Shuff on the birth of their son Quin Rostorfer Shuff born December 21<sup>st</sup>. He weighed 7lbs. 11oz. and is welcomed home by brothers Jax & Rocco and sister Bellamy. Proud grandparents are Joyce Regula and Roy Shuff.

### Official Announcement

#### Quarterly Congregational Meeting

**9:15 AM Sunday, January 21, 2024**

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold the quarterly congregational meeting beginning at 9:15 am Sunday, January 21, 2024.

## Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 6:	Quake Youth Retreat
Sunday, January 7:	Luther League Breakfast
Sunday, January 7:	Undecorate Church for Christmas
Sunday, January 7:	Life to Life Discipleship Meeting
Monday, January 8:	Worship Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 9:	Backpack Meeting at FLC
Sunday, January 14:	Mission Trip Breakfast
Sunday, January 14:	CAC Meeting
Sunday, January 21:	Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 21:	WOC Breakfast
Sunday, January 21:	Lay Witness Meeting
Monday, January 22:	Men's Group Meeting
Tuesday, January 30:	Backpack Packing at FLC





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  Emerson Ludwig	<b>3</b> 1:30 pm Circle 1 6:15 pm-7:45 pm Catechism	<b>4</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band 8:00 pm Dartball Botkins @ Jackson South	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Quake retreat  Jason Platfoot Tucker Downing Tom & Barb Elsass*
<b>7 Feast of the Epiphany</b> 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:00 am LL Breakfast 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Undecorate Church 4:00 pm Life to Life 7:00 pm Creative Clo- vers 4-H	<b>8</b> 7:00 pm Circle 2 7:00 pm Worship Com. Meeting  Shelby Fite	<b>9</b> 6:00 pm Backpack- ing Meeting FLC  Kay Frieders Elsa Stengel	<b>10</b> 6:15 pm-7:45 pm Catechism 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>11</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band 8:00 pm Dartball Jackson South @ Moulton	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>    Ellen Brenner Ben Herndon
<b>14 2nd. Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:00 am Worship w/ Choir 9:00 am Miss. Breakfast 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 4:00 pm CAC Meeting 6:30 pm Pro. Live . 4-H  Trevor Ludwig Rocco Shuff Dave Jensvold	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm Circle 3  Jodi Dickman	<b>17</b> 6:15 pm-7:45 pm Catechism	<b>18</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band 8:00 pm Dartball Clay @ Jackson South	<b>19</b>  Ken Gloyeske	<b>20</b>
<b>21 3rd. Sunday after the Epiphany</b> 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:00 am WOC Breakfast 9:15 am Congregational Meeting 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Lay Witness 3:00 pm-6:00 pm Tanza- nia Training 5:30 pm-7:00 pm L.L.	<b>22</b> 7:00 pm Men's Group  Doug Burch	<b>23</b>  Jennifer Byrd Bruce Smith Barb Weaver	<b>24</b> 6:15 pm-7:45 pm Catechism 7:00 pm Choir Practice  Jacob Frieders Connie Smith Gabrielle Woolley Grace Woolley	<b>25</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band 8:00 pm Dartball Jackson South @ Wapak Meth.	<b>26</b>  Marlene Regula Jodi Rowles	<b>27</b>  Hilde VanDyke
<b>28 4th Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:00 am Worship w/ Choir 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 11:30 am-3:00 pm Regula Fellowship Hall Hershel Wright	<b>29</b> 10:00 am- 3:00 pm Fish  Cindy Herndon Ann Langenkamp Rudy Ruppert Rudy & Jill Ruppert*	<b>30</b> 6:00 pm Backpack- ing packing FLC  Lake Woolley Carolyn Jensvold	<b>31</b> 6:15 pm-7:45 pm Catechism  Dianne Ware			

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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***

# ***January 2024***



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## ***Amazing Grace***

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