

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church:

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**There is one mediator
between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus.**

1 Timothy 2:5

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
September 21, 2025
10:30 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 21, 2025 ~ 10:30 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

God has showered us with love, and we respond by uniting in worship. Welcome, one and all! 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

Every good and perfect gift comes down to us from the Father of lights ([James 1:17](#)). Though some would rob others of these good gifts, God sees and will act. He is not so high above us that he will not humble himself to see our condition, then care for us. So what should we do but call upon our loving Father, telling him what we need and where we hurt? And while we are talking to him, let us pray for the needs of others too, especially for those in high office, for when it goes well for them, that peace transfers to us. May we children of light act as wisely in prayer as the children of this age act in matters of the world.

As We Gather

** Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

“Amazing Grace”

Youth Bell Choir

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

Gathering

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

*Gathering Song

“Hosanna”

*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: Most Holy God:

C: We know our bondage to sin, and we confess it to you. We have denied you with our thoughts, words, and deeds. In our busyness, we forget to be thankful for all your many blessings and mercies. We fail to put You first and our neighbors before ourselves. Hear our confession, our sorrow for our sin, and our need for a savior. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, re-set our hearts and minds, reveal your will for us, and put us back on the path of righteousness.

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

(Silence for personal confession)

P: The Word of Forgiveness...God has had mercy on us and given His only Son to die for us and to take away the sin of the world, even yours and mine. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: God of abundance, all good gifts come from you and you bless us with life and salvation. Apart from your holy love we have nothing. Keep us mindful that we have been bought with a price and teach us to live generous and obedient lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Word

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

First Lesson: Amos 8:4-7

ESV pg. 769

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 113 (read responsively)

113 Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!

² Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!

³ From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

⁴ The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high,

⁶ who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

⁷ He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

⁸ to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

⁹ He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson: 1 Timothy 2:1-15

ESV pg. 991

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

*Holy Gospel: Luke 16:1-15

ESV pg. 875

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Time for Young Disciples

Seminarian Jackson Watts

Sermon Prayer

P: May the Spirit of the Lord be in my heart and on my lips so that I may sincerely and humbly, courageously and effectively proclaim the Good News.

C: And may the Spirit of the Lord touch our ears that we may listen carefully. Touch our minds that we may understand correctly and touch our hearts that we may respond to that message courageously.

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Sermon

Seminarian Jackson Watts

*Apostles Creed (stand)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the

living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
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

"I Will Rise"

"Where I Belong"

Enter to Worship --- Depart to Serve

Ministry and Mission Moments

Your offering to the Lord's work through Grace. There is a **box for offering** located on a table nearby, for you to drop off offerings. All offerings are greatly appreciated to help the church stay in good financial standings and to do the Lord's work.

Today, we welcome to Grace Seminarian Jackson Watts. Jackson wrote us a little bit about himself. Hello! My name is Jackson Watts. I'm 23 years old and I'm in my final year of seminary at the North American Lutheran Seminary in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. I was born and raised in Oklahoma and I attended Oklahoma State University for my undergraduate. I have been engaged to my fiancé Addie for four months now, and we will be getting married in May 2026. We love to be outdoors hiking, cycling, and lots of other activities. When we are not outdoors we are probably cooking and eating good food. I enjoy visiting NALC churches around the country and I am looking forward to spending time with you all! There is a special free will offering box at the back of the church for the Seminarian Scholarship.

Furnace update: The project is nearing completion and the project funding has been over 90% covered. We are \$7,954 away from our completion goal of \$95,825.

Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 28th at 9:15 am. Discussion topic: the village of Jackson Center has asked to expand the northern most driveway leading back to the new water treatment plant.

Luther League: The next meeting for all high school youth will be Today, Sunday, September 21st from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the church.

Buckets for Disaster Relief. The Lay/Witness Committee will again put buckets out on September 28th for members to fill with items on the list included. Some items may already be included in the bucket you pick up. Please return your filled buckets by Sunday, October 12th. Many Thanks! Please place in the south vestibule.

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.

Next packing date is Tuesday, September 23rd at 6:00pm-6:30pm at the JC Methodist Church.

We Need Volunteers, LifeWise Academy is a bible-based character education program that exists to reach public school children with the gospel during school hours. LifeWise Jackson Center is seeking volunteers to assist children in their LifeWise classes beginning this fall. Volunteer job responsibilities: Model positive behavior through Godly character and example, Actively listen during the Bible lessons, Participate and assist in classroom activities and games, Get to know the students through conversation, Learn the students' names, Escort students back and forth from the school to the classroom, Assist with lunches and cleanup, Help with classroom management as needed. If you LOVE Jesus, and you LOVE children, you will LOVE LifeWise. Go to lifewise.org/jacksoncenteroh and click "Join the team"

Adult Bible Study Sunday mornings at 9:15 – 10:15 am Psalms

Photo albums are fun to look at. The photos give a snapshot ... of an event, loved ones, celebrations, significant times in our lives. Photo albums tell stories of our human life. Photos remind us of who we are and perhaps who we long to be. In much the same way, the book of Psalms provides a window to the human soul. The book of Psalms served as a hymnbook to the ancient Israelites. But this book tells the story of every human. Across 150 different psalms, it hits on topics that still resonate with people today. It provides an honest look at what leads to our celebrations and our frustrations. Each Psalm paints a picture of who we were, who we are, and who we would like to be. The Psalms address almost every human need and emotion imaginable. Which includes our need to be in a relationship with God.

Make a commitment to study Psalms this Fall. On Sunday mornings 9:15-10:15 am in the sanctuary. No prior Bible study experience is necessary.

Cost per book is \$5.49 and payable to Grace Lutheran Church. Thank you!

Tanner Hilbun and the JC FCCLA are collecting Legos. The goal for this project is to provide Legos to children in need and spread cheer. He will be collecting new Legos in the original box/bag unopened for children at Dayton Children's and Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospitals. He will also be collecting used Legos that he will sanitize and create kits to give to children in homeless shelters or other less fortunate situations. Please place any new or used Legos in the red Recycle Lego bin in the south vestibule.

Kendall Hilbun and the JC FCCLA are taking pledges of fresh produce. The goal for this project is to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to those living in our community with a focus on those who may not have access to it. She will be using the pledged produce to give to students at school and those who come to the Jackson Center food pantry. You can find the pledge cards on the table at the back of the church.