

## **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church:**

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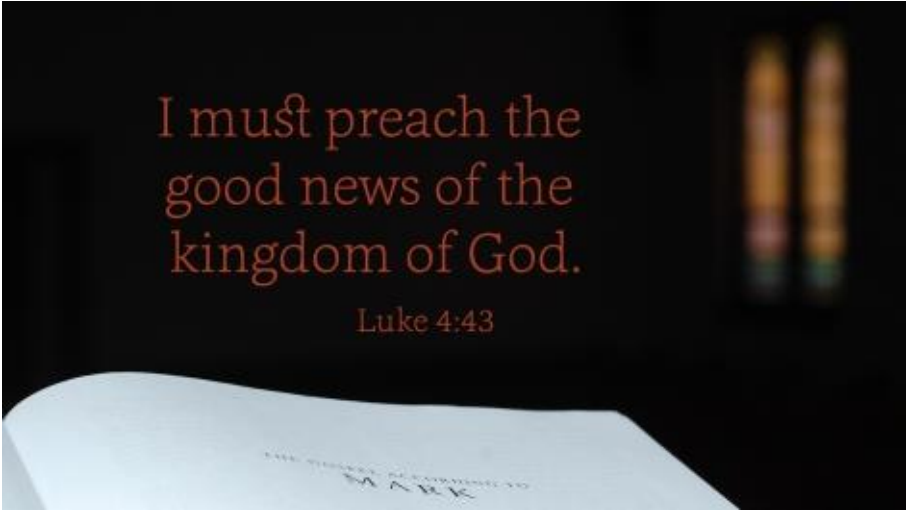
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I must preach the  
good news of the  
kingdom of God.

Luke 4:43

*Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Jackson Center, Ohio  
February 2, 2025  
10:30 am*

Welcome to  
**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

February 2, 2025 ~ 10:30 A.M.

**Welcome to Our Guests**

The psalmist declared to God, “For what you have done I will always praise you in the presence of your faithful people”. We, too, gather to praise the Lord. 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**

There is no more authoritative preaching than the message of Christ’s love. This is the “still more excellent way,” not sappy, childish love but the mature and sacrificial love of God. We have hope in God through Christ’s great love for us. He is our rock of refuge, the one in whose righteousness we are delivered from sin and rescued from death. If we build our hope upon him, upon his sacrificial love for the world, we may fear no one and no evil.

**As We Gather**

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

The Prelude

***“Jesus Does”***

Praise Band

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

**Gathering**

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

\*Gathering Song

***“At Your Name”***

\*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: Almighty God, increase in us the holy gifts of faith, hope, and love. May we never fail to exercise these gifts through which your glory is revealed to all nations. Teach us to love all people as you have commanded us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Word

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

First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10

ESV pg. 627

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 71:1-6 (read responsively)

**71** In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame!

**2** In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me, and save me!

<sup>3</sup> Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

**<sup>4</sup> Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.**

<sup>5</sup> For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

**<sup>6</sup> Upon you I have leaned from before my birth; you are he who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.**

**Praise the LORD!**

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

ESV pg. 959

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Holy Gospel: Luke 4:31-44

ESV pg. 860

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

Time for Young Disciples

Pastor Shelly

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

Dana Ware

Apostles Creed

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.

**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.

**Challenge:** The Luther League will be hosting the fellowship breakfast after the early service on February 2nd. Any donations will go towards food for the **Backpack Program**. The Luther League teens would like to challenge the congregation on that Sunday to bring in food items such as fruit cups, applesauce cups, individual cereal boxes, and small individual microwave meals. The goal is to get at least 50 items that Sunday to help feed local kids in need.

**Luther League** will meet on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the church for the monthly meeting. All high schoolers are welcome.

**Catechism Connection** Continuing on Wednesdays in February, our catechism youth will be studying the Office of the Keys (think confession of sin and Christ's forgiveness) and then the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Through both of these God provides forgiveness of sin and therefore life and salvation. We will be taking a deeper look at how this is so. We meet 6:15 – 7:45 pm each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. Sundays' studies this school year focus on "apologetics." Which means why do we believe what we believe as Christians. Thanks to Lori Wiswell, Greg Woolley, Bonnie Kaufman, and Pastor Shelly for their connections with our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth. Game Night on January 22 was great FUN!

### **Adult Sunday Morning Sunday School at 9:15**

In February Adult Sunday School begins a series on the Lord's Supper. How is it that we receive the bread and wine? Is it really Jesus' body and blood? Do we need to do something? Sunday school begins at 9:15 am each Sunday; the adults meet in the sanctuary.

**Joining Jesus on His Mission – An Adventure for Your Life.** This study group will meet **Today, Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 pm** to report on the mission work accomplished and where God is working. "Will alter the way you see your life as a follower of Jesus and take you beyond living your life *for* Jesus to living life *with* Jesus. Simple, powerful, and applicable insights show you how to be on mission and recognize where Jesus is already at work." Greg Finke

**Calling All Young Adults Ages 18-30** You and your friends are gathering **Sunday, February 9 at 9:15 am** in the Fellowship Hall (north end). Purpose: young adults doing life together as followers of Jesus. Our focus topic will be **Relationships – Yours with God and Your Parents.**

### **We are in need of Deacons for our Grace worship**

So, what is a Deacon, you ask? A deacon is a server during worship. Here at Grace Lutheran, a Deacon assists with serving Holy Communion, receiving the offering, counting the offering after worship, assisting the worshipers when needed, assisting with Baptism. Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 am and other special worship times throughout the year. Contact Chris Stengel 8:00 am or Greg Woolley 10:30 am if you will serve as a deacon as needed. Training is available.

**To the members of Grace Lutheran Church.** A heartfelt thank you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and the power of prayer, for Vickie these past few years. Vickie loved this church and all it's members. The hymnal songs and the singing of the choir, the sermons and conversations with Pastors Bert & Shelly. Vickie was a child of God.

In Christian Love, Larry and all the Byrd Family

Grace Lutheran Church **2024 Annual reports** are available for pick up at the back of the church.

**Lost in Found basket**, at the back of the church, is overflowing with misplaced items. Stop and pick up any items that you may have lost.

## **WOC February Collections**

If you have **full, queen, or king size FLAT sheets** that you no longer need, the WOC could use them for making our quilts for NALC disaster. They do not need to be in perfect condition. Please put them in the baskets in either vestibule. Thank you!!!

**Cookies for Alpha Center** any kind of cookies are accepted. Please bring to the church kitchen by February 9th and label for the "Alpha Center". All cookies are acceptable. Any questions please contact Darlene Woolley, chairperson.

**Health Care Kits for NALC Disaster Response** One bath towel, One wash cloth, One bar of soap in original wrapping, One toothbrush, One pack of dental floss, One tube of toothpaste (or 2 travel size), One comb, One deodorant, Two travel sized Shampoos, One nail clipper. \*pack all items in 2 gallon ziplock bags (WOC will purchase these- just place all items in a grocery bag and deposit in vestibule basket) Any questions please contact Barb Wical, Chairperson.

### **2026 MISSION TRIP to Tanzania:**

On March 2nd Pastor Wayne will be giving the sermon at both services and during the Adult Sunday School hour will discuss information regarding a 2026 mission trip to Tanzania. Whether you are interested in going on the trip or not, this is a great opportunity to ask questions, learn more about the ministry, and hear the amazing stories of God's love. After the late service, Pastor Wayne will stick around to have further discussion about the mission trip. The Mission Committee will provide lunch for those that want to stay and hear more about the upcoming trip. For those individuals that are interested in staying to learn more and eating lunch, please sign the sheet at the back of the church or let a Mission Committee member know. We would love to get a large group back to Tanzania!

## **Annual Pork Meal Fundraiser Tanzania Ministry**

When: Sunday, February 23rd

Time: 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Where: Grace Lutheran Church

Cost: \$10.00

Dinner Includes: Pork Loin, Potato, Green Beans, and Roll

Carry Out Dinners Only - You don't even need to get out of your car - just pull up on the South Side of Church. Deliveries to local shut-ins can be arranged ahead of time by letting a Mission Committee member know. Get your tickets from the church office, Julie Klopfenstein, Pastor Bert, Greg Woolley, Scott Klopfenstein, Marilyn Kohler, Morgan Ackley, Abby Pence, or Darrel Klopfenstein.