

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church:

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**Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.**

John 6:68



*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
August 18, 2024
10:30 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 18, 2024 ~ 10:30 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

“Great are the works of the Lord!” long summer days, meteor showers, lakes and forests, time for vacation and rest. Let us worship our generous God. 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. If you desire to be baptized in Jesus, please speak with the Pastor.

Focus for Today

“We should fear, love, and trust God above all things,” and we should do so sincerely and faithfully. This means continually turning away from evil (especially after we have sinned) and pursuing peace. For the Lord is with the righteous: those who fear, love, and trust God above all things. This is how children of the light walk: in fear, in love, trusting in God’s forgiveness which makes them righteous. These are they upon whom the light of Christ has shone. They find their way to the Lord’s table where the holy meal is spread before them. Believing, they eat, and drink, and abide.

As We Gather

** Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

“Holy Water”

Praise Band

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

Gathering

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

*Gathering Song

“God So Loved”

*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.

Litany for Back to School

P: God, Father and Protector of children, as our children return to the rhythm of the school year,

C: We ask for blessing upon them:

P: That they may learn and grow,

C: That they may make and be good friends,

P: That they may have their minds opened,

C: That their hearts may be soft,

P: That they may be protected from evil,

C: That they may be filled with love.

P: As they make independent decisions each day

C: Be with them.

P: As they work and play

C: Be with them.

P: As they relate to other people

C: Be with them.

P: As they navigate tricky situations

C: Be with them.

P: As they confront their own hearts

C: Be with them.

P: For their teachers we pray for endless wells of patience-

C: Let it be so;

P: Wisdom and insight into each child-

C: Let it be so;

P: Creativity and abundant resources-

C: Let it be so;

P: Blessings on earth and in the spirit –

C: Let it be so;

P: We know that safety is never guaranteed for anyone,

C: But we ask that you would protect our teachers and students

P: That your angels would guard and keep them in safety and good health,

C: That kind people would surround them.

P: Give us wisdom as we raise and teach them,

C: To model kindness, empathy, and awareness,

P: To encourage creativity and open-mindedness,

C: And to love and welcome them whole-heartedly through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: Life-giving God, you sustain us with the power of your Word and feed us with your Son's body and blood. Help us so to abide in him and he in us that we may live our lives in obedience to your will and service to others; 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: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

ESV pg. 198

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34:12-22 (read responsively)

¹² What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?

¹³ **Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.**

¹⁴ Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

¹⁵ **The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.**

¹⁶ The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

¹⁷ **When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.**

¹⁸ The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

²⁰ He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.

21 Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

²² The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:6-21

ESV pg. 978

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

*Holy Gospel: John 6:51-69

ESV pg. 892

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

“God is Choosing”

Pastor Shelly

*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 *“Reign in Me”*
 “Happy Day”

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.

WOC August Collections

School Kits for NALC Disaster Response Needs.

One cloth bag which will be in South vestibule to pick up!, 4- note books- no loose leaf papers, One blunt scissors, One ruler, Two pens, Four new pencils, One pencil sharpener, One eraser, 4- pocket folders, ONE box of 16-24 crayons

Put all items in the bag and place in vestibule baskets at church.

Any questions please contact Nancy McName, Chairperson

The first practice of our Grace adult choir is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4. We are always looking for new members to help us "sing His praises". We usually sing the second and fourth Sundays from September through May as well as several special occasions. The fellowship of being a member of the choir is very special indeed. Please consider joining Grace adult choir this year. Choir schedules are available in then church office of by contacting Rick Russell, director.

St. Mark Lutheran Church, Clay Twp. is having an Ice Cream Social Benefit, Sunday, August 25, 2024 from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm. Items available will be homemade ice cream, pies, desserts, and sandwiches. This is a freewill donation and all proceeds to benefit Kaelyn Zwiebel a 17 year old high school senior at Wapakoneta High School. She is the daughter of Dan & Brandi Zwiebel. She was diagnosed earlier this year with juvenile granulosa ovarian cancer and is currently undergoing chemotherapy at OSU.

Calling all 7th and 8th grade Youth and Your Friends.

Gearing up for a FUN year of catechism to begin with a parent and youth orientation on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The congregation is invited to participate in our **youth-led outdoor worship on Sunday, August 25th at one worship service at 10:30 am.** Sunday school for all ages will be at 9:15 am as we kick-off the Sunday school year with Rally Day. After worship you are invited to enjoy a lunch provided by the Women of the Church and home-made ice cream. Then stick around for games for all ages, face-painting for the young at heart, and fun music. What you need to bring: yourself for FUN and your own chair.

Members, the Lay/Witness Committee would like for us to get to know each other a little better. Lay / Witness members will personally be asking families to fill out a form with some suggested questions to answer. We would like to put a family profile from early and late service in our newsletter. Thanks for your help with this project! There will be a container on the back table for your forms! We are calling this project, "GETTING TO KNOW YOU!"

A new group study starts Sunday, August 25 at 3:30 pm at Grace Lutheran. Take the next step in your spiritual journey with Jesus, "Joining Jesus on His Mission". The group will meet on the fourth Sunday of each month. RSVP to the church office jcgracelutheran@outlook.com and we will provide a copy of the study book for you.

Mark your calendars. Parents of youth grades Pre. K - 6th graders- Gospel Gang's kickoff will be Wednesday, September 4th at 6:15pm. Our kickoff will include a lesson, wiener roast, smores and outdoor games. Meetings will be the first Wednesday of every month 6:15 pm-7:30 pm.

Update on the Luther League Kick-off : The Luther League Kick-Off will now be held on Sunday, September 1st. We will be going to a Dayton Dragons game directly after the late service that Sunday. If any high schooler is interested in going and have not yet confirmed they are attending, then please call or text Julie Klopfenstein at 937-726-6402 or email her at julieregula@hotmail.com More details to come.

Congratulations to Brett & Ann Langenkamp on the birth of their son Hugo Frank Langenkamp. Hugo was born August 13, 2024 and weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz and measured 21 ¼" long. Proud grandparents are Jack & Kay Frieders and Frank & Susan Langenkamp.