

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church:

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JESUS
CHRIST
OF GOD IN
UPWARD CALL
PRIZE OF THE
THE GOAL FOR THE
I PRESS ON TOWARD

PHILIPPIANS 3:14

*Fifth Sunday in Lent
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
April 6, 2025
10:30 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025 ~ 10:30 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

Good morning, and welcome to worship, Christian education and fellowship as the body of Christ! 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

Faith is something that is very fragile and can be easily broken. But faith is complete trust in God, the one who made a way for Israel when there was no way. This same God will make a way for you and me. There will be trials in life, of this we can count on. But we depend more so on the faithfulness of God who sent his only Son to save us from sin and death. God understands our frailty, but he never leaves us.

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

“Made to Worship”

*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.

P: In this season of Lent, let us draw near to the Lord and examine our hearts and minds for the ways in which we have fallen short of the glory of God.

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

P: Holy God,

C: You sent your Son, Jesus, into the world to save us from the power of sin, death, and the devil. We confess that we have failed in many ways to follow Him in our lives. We have forsaken the poor and hungry, we have neglected the sick and sorrowful, and we have looked out for our own needs rather than the needs of others. Forgive us, we pray, and restore us to a new and right relationship with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone; all those who believe in Christ are living stones in His holy house. Hear His Word of forgiveness and be comforted by His love. In the name of Jesus Christ and by His precious blood you are forgiven. You are made new again by the blood of Christ who gave Himself for you so that you might be holy and precious in His sight. (Luke 20:17)

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

All: Almighty Father God, you have drawn us through the waters of baptism into new and everlasting life in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through Christ's life within us, guide us daily through death to life, through sin to righteous living, and in brokenness to healing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Word

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

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:16-21

ESV pg. 604

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126 (read responsively)

126 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

³ The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!

⁵ Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

6 He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14

ESV pg. 981

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

*Holy Gospel: Luke 20:9-20

ESV pg. 879

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

Seminarian Luke Ratke

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 *“Holy is the Lord”*
 “Light the Fire”

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.

Everyone is invited to attend this year's **Choir Service**. The adult choir of Grace will be in charge of the 8:00 service on **Sunday, April 27**. The message will be a combination of songs performed by the choir and an inspirational message from Fritz Serr. We hope to see you at this year's choir service on Sunday, April 27, at 8:00 am.

Children's Bell Choir will be performing the prelude at the 10:30 am worship service on April 13th.

Today we Welcome to Grace, Seminarian Luke Ratke and his wife, Megan. Dear Congregation of Grace Lutheran. Peace and blessings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. My name is Luke Ratke, and I am one of the North American Lutheran Church's seminarians. I grew up and am from Edmond, Oklahoma, a suburb of Oklahoma City, and my home church is Peace Lutheran Church in Edmond, Oklahoma. Prior to starting seminary, I went to Oklahoma State University where I earned a degree in Industrial Engineering & Management and met my wife, Megan, who earned a degree in Business Management (focus in non-profit). For the past couple of years, I have studied at the North American Lutheran Seminary in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. After this current spring semester of seminary, I will have an additional year of seminary training before I begin my yearlong internship at a NALC congregation. This current semester I have been taking the following courses: Hebrew II, Pastoral Leadership, Introduction to Theology II, and Homiletics II. I desire to do full-time ministry work as my career, and Megan desires to help people throughout her life. God will lead us throughout life! I hope to become either a pastor and/or chaplain, where God can use me to help people that are struggling emotionally and spiritually. Pastors Bert and Shelly invited me to preach at worship on Sunday, April 6. Megan and I look forward to worshiping God alongside all of you soon. May God fill all of your hearts with joy!

Today following 8:00 am worship there will be a breakfast during fellowship time provided by the Luther League. Donations will be going towards a Luther League Mission Trip that is in the process of getting planned for the summer. Thank you in advance!

WOC April Collections. Elizabeth's New Life Center is located at 2201 N. Main Street Sidney, Ohio. They educate & help support pregnant women in our area. They are currently in need of Baby Diapers size 3,4,& 5. Watch the April bulletin for a list of current items in need of in April. Any questions contact Joyce Regula, Chairperson.

Easter Egg Hunt: The Luther League will be hosting the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th at 10:00 am. The hunt will take place at Grace Lutheran church and as long as the weather permits it will be held outdoors in the shelter house area. All children are welcome!

Catechism Connection

Catechism youth continue with Sunday morning studies at 9:15 am. Wednesday catechism is worship at 7:00 pm. Please continue submitting sermon notes (in the offering plate, the offering box, or to your Sunday school teacher).

Adult Sunday Morning Sunday School at 9:15 The Parables of Jesus – April and May Sundays

Jesus' parables are timeless, powerful, and profound. Yet there is a dimension to them that can best be appreciated fully when seen through ancient Middle Eastern eyes. Drawing on remarkable cultural and historical insights from renowned New Testament and Middle East scholar Dr. Kenneth Bailey, this study explores how Jesus' audience would have understood eleven of Jesus' parables as recorded in Luke. See these great stories come to life for you.

IT'S GAME DAY Inviting all senior members of Grace (and the community) to our first "JOY" (Just Older Youth) gathering. We've planned an afternoon of fun and fellowship for anybody (regardless of age)-all are welcome! If you like to play cards or games, Grace Church is where you'll want to be on Thursday, April 24th at 1:00-3:00. We will provide the cards and a variety of games (and we'll have some refreshments too)! We hope you'll join us for this afternoon of fun and fellowship! Sponsored by the Lay/Witness Committee

Mission Trip for High School Youth and Congregation Members -- Disaster Relief Rebuilding The Luther League high school youth are inviting congregation members to join them for a mission trip to North Carolina to assist in rebuilding homes in Burnsville, NC. This summer June 19-25, 2025. Join the high school youth as you are able, it is not necessary to be there the full time. All skill levels are needed for cleanup, building, meal preparation, devotional and prayer leadership. Please let Lori Wiswell 937-538-7182 or the Pastors know of your interest and to receive more information.

Attention!!! There are a number of **serving trays missing** from the church kitchen. If you possibly borrowed them for a personal function, and forgot to return them, please return ASAP. They would be very useful during the Lenten meals for the next several weeks. Thanks! Women of the Church