

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church:

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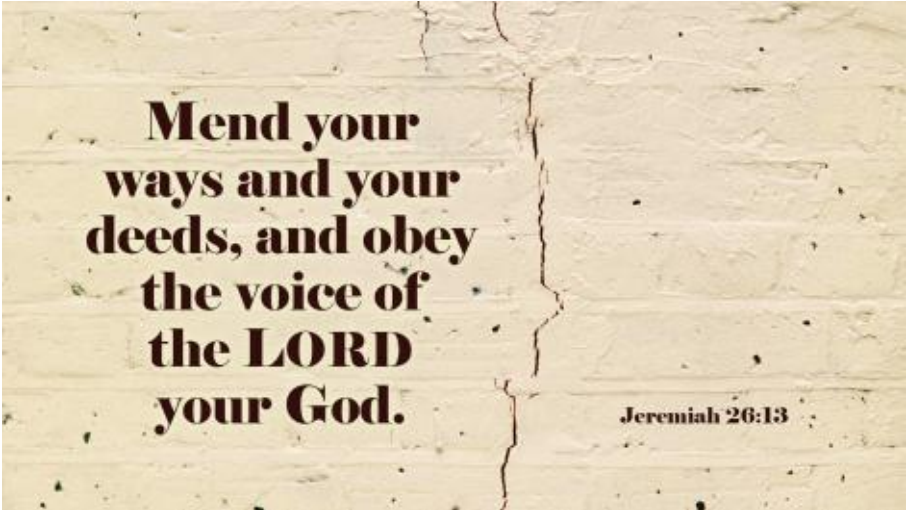
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**Mend your
ways and your
deeds, and obey
the voice of
the LORD
your God.**

Jeremiah 26:13

*Second Sunday in Lent
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
March 16, 2025
10:30 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025 ~ 10:30 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

“By grace you have been saved as a gift of God”. All are welcome here! Let us worship together. 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

The culturally correct do not care for rebuke. Just ask Jeremiah. It matters not whether this is a secular or religious bunch, if the Lord sends, the prophet must speak. Almost certainly, it will not go well for that prophet; his life is the Lord’s, and he must trust in God alone. The culture’s protection is fickle but God is faithful. Better to be culture’s enemy than an enemy of the cross. This is the way of Christ.

As We Gather

** Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

“Gratitude”

Praise Band

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

Gathering

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

*Gathering Song

“Lord I Need You”

*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: Gather us, gracious Lord, into the saving grace of your loving promises. Show us the light of your blessings and remind us often of our true citizenship; 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: Jeremiah 26:8-15

ESV pg. 654

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 4 (read responsively)

4 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

2 O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? Selah

3 But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

4 Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. Selah

5 Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

6 There are many who say, "Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!"

7 You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson: Philippians 3:17-4:1

ESV pg. 981

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

*Holy Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

ESV pg. 873

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Time for Young Disciples

Pastor Bert

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

Pastor Bert

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 ***“Joyful (The One Who Saves)”***
 “God So Loved”

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.

Easter flower order forms are available at the back of the church. Orders need to be returned by Sunday, March 23rd.

Jackson Center **Fire Department Fish Fry** will be held March 28, 2025 at the JC American Legion hall. Dinner will be 5:00 pm-8:00 pm or sold out.

Mark your calendars Jackson Center Community Blood Drive will be held **Tuesday, April 1st.** from 12:30 pm – 6:30 pm at the American Legion Post 627 E. College Street. There will be platelet collection until 5:30 pm along with the whole blood collection ending at 6:30 pm. You can schedule your appointment at www.DonorTime.com or CBC 937-461-3220. Any questions please contact Nancy McName

Adult Sunday Morning Sunday School at 9:15. In March Adult Sunday School begins a series on the second article of the Apostle's Creed. Who is Jesus? How does He affect our daily lives? Sunday school begins at 9:15 am each Sunday; the adults meet in the sanctuary.

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Fort Myers Beach, FL requests your prayers for their continuing worship and ministry community. Pastor Tom Frey, former pastor at Grace, is serving as their interim pastor. Currently worshipping in a tent, the congregation lost their sanctuary in hurricane Ian 2 years ago, and in the rebuilding process the sanctuary was again destroyed by hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Interested in being part of our Grace Lutheran fellowship? The pastors are offering a **Grace Inquiry Gathering** on **Sunday, March 30 at 11:30 am** to learn more about our congregation of Grace. We invite you to become an active member of Grace and join our Christian fellowship. Please RSVP to the church office or the pastor if you are interested in attending. Lunch will be served.

Parents Night Out fundraiser sponsored by the Community Faith Night. April 4, 2025 from 5:30 pm-9:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church. Pre-registration by March 23rd by texting the children's full name and age to 937-726-6358. Cost is \$40 for 1 child and \$10 for each additional child in the same family. Spaces are limited.

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 (either in the offering plate, the offering box, your Sunday school teacher).

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.

2026 MISSION TRIP to Tanzania sign-up sheet is at the back of the church if you are interested in going. Trip will be July 9-21, 2026.

To **designate Thrivent Choice Dollars**, follow these steps:

1. Log in to your Thrivent account at thrivent.com. If you don't have a user ID and password, you can register now.
2. Once logged in, **look for your designated Choice Dollars amount on the right side of the screen.**
3. You can also direct Choice Dollars by phone by calling 800-847-4836 and following the prompts to direct Choice Dollars or hear the Thrivent Choice program Terms and Conditions.

March WOC Collections

Personal Care items for Fish Pond Food Pantry

Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Shampoo, Conditioner, Liquid hand soap, Bar Soap, Deodorant. Barb Wical, Chairperson

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 Kairos

Thank You to all my Special Grace Family Members who have or are baking cookies for the late March Kairos Weekend at the Allen/Oakwood Correctional Institution (Lima Prison). I will be picking up the cookies at church on Friday, March 21st by 5:00PM. Also, I will be more than happy to pick them up at your home, just let me know. My cell number is 937-726-9378. I hope to be able to share the weekend experience with you sometime in the future. Again, thank you so much. Fritz Serr

To the **Members of Grace** Lutheran Church, **Thank you** to everyone for your cards and well wishes after my January knee surgery. They were uplifting during the painful weeks that followed. I also enjoyed the artwork and signatures on the cards from the Sunday School teachers and kids. So fun to receive! A special thank you to Pastors Bert & Shelly for your prayers, visits and communion. You provided extra strength and comfort during a challenging time.

Blessings to all,
Jo Regula