

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 7th and 8th grade youth. Game Night on January 22 was great FUN!

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.

Benefit Luncheon & Auction for Megan Marvin's 4th Open Heart Surgery. Saturday, March 1st from 1:00 pm-3:00 pm at the Maplewood Hall. Meal will be your choice of lasagna or spaghetti with sides. Minimum donation of \$10 at the door. Auction will follow with items from local businesses, family and friends.

Megan is a 33 year old woman from Maplewood and was born with congenital heart disease and has had many surgeries since birth.

Grace Church: Office: 937-596-6516 ~ Fax: 937-596-0516

Office hours: 8 am to 1 pm. E-mail: jcgracelutheran@outlook.com

WEB Address: www.jcgracelutheran.org

Pastor Bert Schultz ~ Cell phone: 715-418-1037

Pastor Shelly Schultz ~ Cell phone: 715-418-1761 ~ Email: jcgracepastor@outlook.com

Facebook: JC Grace Lutheran

Matt Kohler, Church President; Nikki Tontrup, Secretary; Rhonda Burch, Janitor:

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Psalm
103:1

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me!

*Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
February 23, 2025
Traditional Service
8:00 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 23, 2025 ~ 8:00 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! May your soul be nourished, your faith be strengthened and your life be touched by God in a special way while you're here. 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.

As We Gather

Joseph, through no intention of his own, gave his life for the sin of his brothers, that God might preserve a remnant of Israel to bless the nations. Jesus, with full intent, gave his life for the sins of the world, to establish a remnant of believers from all the nations. Now, we are called by Christ to give our lives in service and prayer. This is the duty of the Church; it is to their shame when believers do otherwise, as they act contrary to their Lord.

Gathering

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

** Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome

*Opening Hymn: **“We Praise You, O God”** LBW # 241

The Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Silent time for reflection and confession of sin

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

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: O Lord, you know our fears and lack of confidence. Forgive our willful ways, and defend our faith through the teaching of your Christ, through whom you gather saints to give you glory without end. Grant this, we pray, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem

“Down to the River to Pray”

Adult Choir

Word

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

First Lesson: Genesis 45:3-15

ESV pg # 39

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:1-13 (read responsively)

103 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
4 **who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**
5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
6 The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.
7 He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.
8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.
10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:21-26,30-42
Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

ESV pg # 961

Gospel Acclamation (sung)

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

*Holy Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

ESV pg # 862

Glory to you, O Lord (sung)
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

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

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.

*The Prayers of the Church (stand)

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Thanksgiving

We give thanks for the saving Word and all God's gifts.

Gathering of the Gifts

*The Offering Hymn

"You Are the Way"

LBW # 464

*The Offertory

"Doxology"

LBW # 565

*Offertory Prayer

Page 67

Pastor: Merciful Father,

All: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us- our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.

Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*The Benediction

Mission and Ministry Moments

*Song

“Abide with Us, Our Savior”

LBW # 263

*Sending

P: Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Organ Postlude

Enter to Worship --- Depart to Serve

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.

Next Packing will be March 4, 2025 at 6:00 pm JC Methodist Church.

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

OPG Men’s Spring Conference March 1, 2025 in Wapakoneta, Ohio.

Men, let’s gather for a day to honor God, be inspired, enjoy great food, quality fellowship and go home refreshed!

Speakers: Eli Yoder - Preaching Truck driver, author of "Undeceived"-
from Amish Tradition to Christ's Redemption.

Also pastors Jon Horn & Wayne de Wet

Theme: God ALONE is WORTHY!

Location: The Barn, 14296 SR 196, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Registration deadline: Midnight, Sunday, February 23,
register soon as we can only accommodate 45.

Cost is \$25 per person. Registration is online at www.oneplusgod.org.

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!

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.

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!!!

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.

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. **Any items not claimed by March 1st will be donated.**

Jerusalem at Passover the 2025 midweek Lenten dramas. We are in need of 6 men and 3 women to read dramatic parts from the balcony. Please speak with one of the pastors if you are willing to read a part for midweek Wednesday 7:00 pm worship.

On March 2, the Luther League will host their monthly breakfast. This month we would like to **raise funds** to buy Bibles for the Jackson Center students that are in LifeWise. Currently the classroom has Bibles, but we would love for each student to be able to take one home. Each Bible costs right around \$20 and there are currently 18 students registered in the program. We know this program is working. One student who had never even heard of Jesus before now prays every single night before bed. This student is so happy to be at school on Wednesday's to learn more about the Bible and Jesus. Please consider helping us reach our goal.