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The Ohio Mission Region of the NALC has numerous opportunities for service to Christ's greater Church. Right now, we have established three task forces to address needs in our mission region of Ohio. They are:

1) The NALC has grown with more congregations added to our mission district area (3). It is time to **redistrict** for a regional structure in the whole state of Ohio.

Therefore, a **regional restructuring task force**. We are at our limit of 12 congregations per mission district in Ohio and need to form more in the state (possibly two more). If you are good at map drawing/reading and good at spatial relations, this task force is for you. It is not political. Talk to Pastor Bert.

2) **Youth & Family Ministry** is important to the Church for growth in Discipleship. The mission districts want to establish a task force to provide some youth and family activities that would offer Bible Camp and retreat experiences for our young people. These can be great faith building and enriching opportunities. Bringing together Christian young people and mentors in a new and or natural environment to worship and play together has historically been a great way to nurture a joyous faith in God. If you love kids and would like to see opportunities to be with other Lutheran youth, talk to Pastor Bert.

3) We need a **planning task force to plan our regional convention** each year. You get to choose a topic for the good of the Church, help with worship planning, choose the location, and coordinate the food and registration. Talk with Pastor Bert if you enjoy planning events.

Please contact Pastor Bert Schultz if you are able to serve on one of these task forces. It is a one-year commitment.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church:

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Nikki Tontrup, Secretary Rhonda Burch, Janitor: Matt Kohler, CAC President:

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*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
August 31, 2025
10:30 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025 ~ 10:30 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

Welcome to worship this Labor Day weekend! May our time together strengthen us so we can serve God in whatever work we do. 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 Pharisees watched Jesus carefully, hoping to make much of some fault that never came. May we also watch him but with better reason. We should watch him in order to imitate his ways, his faith in the Father. This is not a matter of pride, but the character of a younger sibling who would be like his big brother. We cannot attain to it; it is too much. But we can try to show brotherly love and humility, and with the Spirit's help, may attain to some measure of improvement. After all is done, we may rest in Christ's peace, knowing our hope is in the Lord, not in ourselves: our efforts, our righteousness.

As We Gather

** Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

"I Speak Jesus"

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: 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.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: Almighty God, through the gracious gift of baptism you forgive our sins, give us life in Christ, and grant us a place at your heavenly banquet. By the power of your Holy Spirit create in us humble hearts and an attitude of mutual love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Word

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

First Lesson: Proverbs 25:2-10

ESV pg. 546

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 131 (read responsively)

131 O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.

2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.

³O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.

Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson: Hebrews 13:1-17

ESV pg. 1009

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

*Holy Gospel: Luke 14:1-14

ESV pg. 873

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

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

“The Importance of Humility”

Pastor Bob

*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

“At Your Name”

“Blessed Be Your Name”

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.

This morning we **welcome** to Grace, **Pastor Bob Forsberg**. Pastor Bob has served in four Lutheran parishes over 42 years. He is now retired, living in Fairborn, Ohio. He considers himself on "Active Reserve" for the Lord. That is why he is here today. He has been married to his wife Sandy for over 45 years, has two children and five grandchildren.

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.

The first practice of our Grace adult choir is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10th. 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 the church office or by contacting Rick Russell, director.

We Need Volunteers, LifeWise Academy is a bible-based character education program that exists to reach public school children with the gospel during school hours. LifeWise Jackson Center is seeking volunteers to assist children in their LifeWise classes beginning this fall. Volunteer job responsibilities: Model positive behavior through Godly character and example, Actively listen during the Bible lessons, Participate and assist in classroom activities and games, Get to know the students through conversation, Learn the students’ names, Escort students back and forth from the school to the classroom, Assist with lunches and cleanup, Help with classroom management as needed. If you LOVE Jesus, and you LOVE children, you will LOVE LifeWise. Go to lifewise.org/jacksoncenteroh and click “Join the team”

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 (mac & cheese cups). There is a labeled box in the south vestibule for your donations. Thank you for all of the contributions, we greatly appreciate all of them.

Members and WOC for our Sept 7 General meeting we will be packing “kitchen kits” for the WNALC Disaster Response. For the last 2 years we were able to pack 30 full kits. PLEASE PUT IN VESTIBULE BASKET BY SEPT 4th.

Items we still need are:

Large serving spoons, Spatulas (turners), bowl scrapers, sets of measuring cups, Sets of measuring spoons, hand can openers, potato peelers, mini cutting boards and tongs.

Thanks to all of you so much for all your generosity, all of our quilts, school kits, kitchen and health kits along with our flood buckets will be taken to Caldwell warehouse in Oct. **Flood buckets** will be available on Sept. 28, 2025!

The Women of the Church

Boiler Fundraiser hosted by Luther League

The Luther League will host the fellowship breakfast after the early service on Sunday, September 7th. All donations will be going towards the new boiler system. Please consider attending to support our teens and our church.

Catechism Connection

Catechism begins Wednesday, September 3 for 7th-8th grade youth. Meeting in the Fellowship Hall, we will be studying the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Friends are always welcome to join us for Wednesday evenings 6:15-7:45 pm for a lesson, games, snacks, and prayer time. 7th & 8th grade youth have Sunday morning studies at 9:15 am in the lower level northwest area. This year these youth will be studying the Bible as God's BIG story.

Adult Bible Study Sunday mornings at 9:15 – 10:15 am Psalms

Photo albums are fun to look at. The photos give a snapshot ... of an event, loved ones, celebrations, significant times in our lives. Photo albums tell stories of our human life. Photos remind us of who we are and perhaps who we long to be. In much the same way, the book of Psalms provides a window to the human soul. The book of Psalms served as a hymnbook to the ancient Israelites. But this book tells the story of every human. Across 150 different psalms, it hits on topics that still resonate with people today. It provides an honest look at what leads to our celebrations and our frustrations. Each Psalm paints a picture of who we were, who we are, and who we would like to be. The Psalms address almost every human need and emotion imaginable. Which includes our need to be in a relationship with God.

Make a commitment to study Psalms this Fall. On Sunday mornings 9:15-10:15 am in the sanctuary. No prior Bible study experience is necessary.

Cost per book is \$5.49 and payable to Grace Lutheran Church. Thank you!

Mission Trip 2026

Want to take a trip that makes a difference not only for those you visit and serve, but for your own spiritual growth? This type of trip is impactful, fulfilling, full of fellowship and fun with other believers, and making meaningful memories. The next Tanzania Trip will be held July 9-21, 2026. For those interested in going, we will be starting some fundraising by supplying the fellowship breakfast after the early service and before Sunday School. We will be supplying the breakfast every 3rd Sunday of the month starting in September. Your participation does not mean you are locked into going. Please text or call Julie Klopfenstein at 937-726-6402 if you would like to be included or if you have any questions.

Dick & Linda Jenkins will be **celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary** on September 3rd. To help them celebrate their children would like to have a card shower for them. Their address is: PO Box 75 Jackson Center, Ohio 45334.

Congratulations on 60 years of marriage!

Mark your calendars. Parents of youth grades Pre. K - 6th graders- Gospel Gang's kickoff will be Wednesday, September 3rd. 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.

Invite your friends to come too!

Fellowship time between early church and Sunday School will be discontinued until Fall. Will start back on Sunday, September 7th.