

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

Praise & Worship Service on Sunday, March 30th at 7:00 pm. Freewill offering for LifeWise Academy. Refreshments to follow. Handouts available at the back of the church.

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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**Surely his salvation is near
to those who fear him.**

Psalm 85:9

*Third Sunday in Lent
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
March 23, 2025
Traditional Service
8:00 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025 ~ 8:00 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

Welcome, dear family in Christ, to Christian fellowship, education and worship this day. God bless us, everyone. 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 through Jesus

Our evildoing and our sins are upon us, threatening to undo us in the rot of death. Yet God forgives; he covers our sin; he atones for us. This is a real and present grace. For when temptation and transgressions threaten to overwhelm us, there is a Rock for us to cling to, a divine Rock who is Christ. He is our meat and drink when we are weakened by sin. Eat; drink; this is the supernatural Rock given for you. Turn to the Lord for mercy and forgiveness, for unless you repent, you will perish.

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:

“Chief of Sinners though I Be”

LBW # 306

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

C: Amen

P: Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. 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: I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and, for his sake, forgives you all your sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses you and gives you power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called you out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained ministry of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

*Greeting

LBW pg. 57

* Kyrie

*Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: Everlasting God, draw us into this season of repentance and create within us fertile soil in which your Word bursts forth in lives marked by the abundant fruit of your grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem

“Guide My Feet, Lord”

Adult Choir

Word

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

First Lesson: Ezekiel 33:7-20

ESV pg # 721

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85 (read responsively)

85 LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

² You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. *Selah*

³ You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

⁴ Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!

⁵ Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

⁶ Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹ Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

¹² Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

ESV pg # 957

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (sung)

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

Glory to you, O Lord (sung)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

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

Pastor Shelly

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

*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 **"Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways"** LBW 480

*The Offertory **"Create in me a clean heart"** LBW # 75

*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 **"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"** LBW # 294

*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.

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

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.

Attention!!! There are a number of **servicing 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

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).

March WOC Collections

Personal Care items for Fish Pond Food Pantry. Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Shampoo, Conditioner, Liquid hand soap, Bar Soap, Deodorant. Any questions please contact 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!!!

The **Luther League will be hosting** several upcoming meals in the next month: Lent meal on Wednesday, March 26th, breakfast during fellowship on Sunday, April 6th and breakfast during fellowship on Sunday, April 27th. Donations for these meals will be going towards a Luther League Mission Trip that is in the process of getting planned for the summer. More details to come. Thank you in advance!

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. All children are welcome!

The Luther League was able to purchase 30 Bibles for the Jackson Center LifeWise Academy. This means the students are able to take these Bibles home with them for keeps to read and study God's word as much as they want! Thank you for your donations and being a positive impact in these student's lives!

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.