

Catechism Connection

The Lord God makes us members of His Church through the **power of Baptism**. He washes us clean from sin, forgives sins and gives eternal life. Continuing on Wednesdays in January, our catechism youth will be studying God's gift of Baptism into the life of Jesus Christ. 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.

Thank you for all of the prayers, cards, and well wishes to me during my recent hospitalization. I greatly appreciate all of them.

Jim Knief

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**He has anointed me
to proclaim good news
to the poor.**

Luke 4:18

*Third Sunday after Epiphany
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
January 26, 2025
Traditional Service
8:00 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 26, 2025 ~ 8:00 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

St. Paul declares: “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it”. Each of you is indispensable to this gathering called the church. Welcome! 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

“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near” ([Rev 1:3](#)). Blessed are they who read the Word for others, and they who make the meaning clear. For that Word revives the soul and brings joy to the heart. It makes the simple wise and provides insight. This is a community affair; the whole congregation is involved: reading, teaching, hearing. In this ministry of the Word is found healing, liberty, understanding, and good news.

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:

“Lift High the Cross”

LBW # 377

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: Merciful Father, you have provided for your people the gift of Holy Scripture through which your salvation in Jesus Christ is made known. Grant that we may study, learn, meditate upon your word that we may live according to your will, as one body, following the way of the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, our Lord. It is in his most holy name we pray. Amen.

Choir Anthem

“Songs of Grace and Hope”

Adult Choir

Word

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

First Lesson: Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10

ESV pg # 403

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19:7-14 (read responsively)

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

⁸ **the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;**

⁹ the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**

¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² **Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.**

¹³ Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. Praise the LORD!**

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

ESV pg # 959

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (sung)

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

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

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| *The Offering Hymn | "Take My Life, that I May Be" | LBW # 406 |
| *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	"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"	LBW # 294
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*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.

Year-end giving statements are available for pick up at the back of the church. Each envelope is marked for the designated family. These are only for people using the numbered offering envelope system.

WOC February Collection is **Cookies for Alpha Center** any kind of cookies are excepted. Please bring to the **church kitchen by February 9th** and label for the "Alpha Center". Any questions please contact Darlene Woolley, chairperson.

WOC January Collection

Please remember to save your greeting cards for the WOC January collection. Linda Jenkins is the chairperson for this project. Please put in the Church vestibule baskets, collection will take place the whole month of January.

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.

Challenge: The Luther League will be hosting the fellowship breakfast after the early service on February 2nd. Any donations will go towards food for the **Backpack Program**. The Luther League teens would like to challenge the congregation on that Sunday to bring in food items such as fruit cups, applesauce cups, individual cereal boxes, and small individual microwave meals. The goal is to get at least 50 items that Sunday to help feed local kids in need.

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.

Adult Sunday Morning Sunday School at 9:15

Did you know that Christmas and Epiphany were foretold in the Old Testament? Christmas in Isaiah

The advent of Christ was prophesied in the Old Testament beginning with the words to Adam in [Genesis 3:15](#). The blessed promise is repeated throughout the Old Testament, and one of these choice prophets is Isaiah. We begin a series based on four texts from Isaiah entitled "Christmas in Isaiah." The four texts are [Isaiah 7:14](#), the prophecy of the virgin birth of Christ, [Isaiah 9:1-7](#), the promise of the great light for a dark world, [Isaiah 11:1-10](#), the promise of peace on earth, and [Isaiah 53:1-6](#), the picture of the Messiah from the manger to the cross. All these texts are of the promised Savior quoted in the New Testament as the fulfillment of the prophecy of the coming Savior.