

Volunteers Needed on Wednesday, May 28 2:30-3:30 pm or 4-5 pm for packing Kid's Coalition Against Hunger (Packing food for local families in need). GOAL 10,000 food packs. To sign up to volunteer register at <https://kidscoalitionagainsthunger.org/news-events/event-calendar.html/event-form/registration-form/106291/tickets> or sign up on the back sanctuary table. We will meet in the Jackson Center Firehall to receive instructions and assembly line pack 10,000 meals. New Horizons and Scally Brothers concert to follow under the tent for Growing Community in Faith Night.

Mission Trip for High School Youth and Congregation Members -- Disaster Relief Rebuilding The Luther League high school youth are inviting congregation members to join them for a mission trip to North Carolina to assist in rebuilding homes in Burnsville, NC. This summer June 19-25, 2025. Join the high school youth as you are able, it is not necessary to be there the full time. All skill levels are needed for cleanup, building, meal preparation, devotional and prayer leadership. Please let Lori Wiswell 937-538-7182 or the Pastors know of your interest and to receive more information.

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

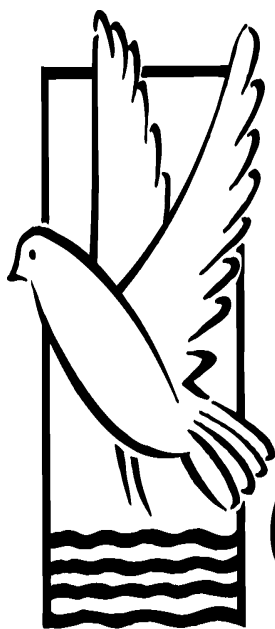
~ Email: jcgracepastor@outlook.com

Facebook: JC Grace Lutheran

Matt Kohler, Church President:

Nikki Tontrup, Secretary

Rhonda Burch, Janitor:



Confirmation Sunday

*Third Sunday of Easter
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
May 4, 2025
Contemporary Service – 10:30 AM*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Third Sunday of Easter
May 4, 2025 ~ 10:30 A.M.



*Holy
Communion*

Beliefs and Customs

We Celebrate Holy Communion today. All who are baptized and believe Jesus Christ is truly present in this sacrament are invited to dine at the Lord's Table. If you desire a pastoral blessing please come forward with your hands folded. Gluten free wafers are available Please indicate your need to the server. White grape juice is in the center of the tray. Lined baskets are available on each side aisle to dispose of your used cup. If you desire to be baptized in Jesus, please speak with the Pastor.

Welcome to Our Guests

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song" Welcome, as we join Creation in worshiping God! 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

When God reveals himself, whether you can see him or not, the proper response is, "Here I am, Lord." This is tantamount to saying, "Thy will be done" with me, your servant. When Saul was blinded on the way to Damascus, the Lord revealed himself: "I am Jesus." The outcome was Saul's baptism. When the Lord revealed himself to Ananias in a vision, the result was an enemy becoming a brother. The Lord may reveal himself even in the hiding of his face for a while. A change of attitude may ensue. When the Lamb reveals himself, even the hosts of heaven respond with joyful acclamation. So, when God reveals himself, we do not ask questions because we know it is the Lord. We are still before him, and await his word and will.

** Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

"Build My Life"

Praise Band

Lighting of the Candles & Christ Candle

Welcome & Prayer

Julia Ann Burch, daughter of Mark & Lindsay Burch, has as her confirmation verse,
1 Corinthians 16:14 "Let all that you do be done in love." Her Godparents are Greg Borchers & Nicole Gearing.



Archer James Copeland, son of Marc & Abby Copeland, has as his confirmation verse,
Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." His Godparents are Mike & Becky Copeland.



Gathering

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

*Gathering Song **“Jesus Messiah”** (Chosen by Confirmands)

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 and words, deeds we have done and things we have left undone. Even though we love you, we have not always put you first. Our eyes follow your Son Jesus, but our feet stray from your paths of righteousness. Hear our confession, our sorrow for our sin, and our need for a Savior. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew 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: God has had mercy on us and given His only Son, Jesus Christ to die for us and to take away the sin of the world, 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

C: Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

Leader: Let us pray,

All: Father God, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts and minds that through your Spirit you may rule and direct us according to your will. Comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions. Defend us from all error. And lead us into all truth that we, being steadfast in faith, may increase in all good works and in the end obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Word

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

First Lesson: Ephesians 4:11-16

ESV # 977

Word of God for the people of God.

Archer Copeland

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 61 *Please join me in reading the Psalm responsively by whole verse.*

61 Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer;

Archer Copeland

2 from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint.

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I,

3 for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

4 Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! Selah

5 For you, O God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

6 Prolong the life of the king; may his years endure to all generations!

7 May he be enthroned forever before God; appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!

8 So will I ever sing praises to your name, as I perform my vows day after day.

Praise the Lord!

Second Lesson: Revelation 5:8-14

ESV # 1031

Word of God for the people of God.

Julia Burch

Thanks be to God.

*Holy Gospel: John 21:1-14

ESV # 907

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

“Building Strong”

Pastor Shelly

Presentation of Confirmation Class

Bonnie Kaufman

*Rite of Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism

Insert

Lord’s Supper

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Reception of First Communicants

*Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

*Words of Institution

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

*The 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

Distribution of the Sacrament

Communion Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

Sending

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

*The Benediction

Mission and Ministry Moments

*Song

“Shine Jesus Shine”

“Sing Wherever I Go”

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.

WOC May Collections are Bibles and New Testament & Any type of crosses to hold or hang on the wall - new and used for NALC Disaster Response Needs. They can be Children’s Bibles, Teen Bibles, Spanish Bibles, Large Print Bibles! Feel free to send underlined, and highlighted Bibles, **DON’T HESITATE TO WRITE A MESSAGE OF HOPE IN THE FRONT FOR THE RECIPIENTS!** Place in vestibule baskets! Any questions please contact Linda Jenkins, Chairperson

Flowers on the altar are in honor of today’s confirmands.

Adult Sunday Morning Sunday School at 9:15 The Parables of Jesus – April and May Sundays Jesus’ parables are timeless, powerful, and profound. Yet there is a dimension to them that can best be appreciated fully when seen through ancient Middle Eastern eyes. Drawing on remarkable cultural and historical insights from renowned New Testament and Middle East scholar Dr. Kenneth Bailey, this study explores how Jesus’ audience would have understood eleven of Jesus’ parables as recorded in Luke. See these great stories come to life for you.

Last Gospel Gang meeting for the 2024-2025 year will be Wednesday, May 7th 6:15 pm-7:30 pm. We would like to invite everyone back for the 2025-2026 year with our kickoff on Wednesday, September 3rd.

The Rite of Confirmation



Presentation of the Confirmands

L: The following persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make a public affirmation of their baptism. As I read their names, I ask them to stand.

Julia Ann Burch

Archer James Copeland

P: In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul writes:

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

(1 Corinthians 1:4-9)

P: Through the education program of this congregation, you have had the opportunity to learn and grow in your understanding of the Scriptures, as well as the opportunity to assume a greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world. We thank God for the many ways your faith has been confirmed among us.

I ask you to bear witness to what you have learned by giving testimony to the hope that is in you because of Jesus Christ.

Individual's Faith Statement and Confirmation Bible Verse

Prayer

P: I invite the confirmands to stand

P: Let us pray: We give you thanks, Almighty God, for the gifts of wisdom, understanding, and faith that you have granted to these confirmands through their study of your Word. We pray that you will continue to increase their faith toward you and their love toward all your people, that the gifts of your Holy Spirit may always be evident in their lives.

Merciful Father, we give you thanks for the grace and mercy you have bestowed upon your faithful people who, throughout the centuries, have stood firm in the faith. We pray that by your Holy Spirit, these confirmands may be found faithful on the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

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Affirmation of Baptism

Confession of Faith

P: In the presence of this congregation, and in the sight of God, I now ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

The minister addresses the confirmands.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the spiritual forces of evil that contend against God and his faithful servants?

R: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the influence and powers of this world that are contrary to God's Word and will?

R: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the sin within your own heart, mind, and flesh, and call upon the Lord to deliver you from evil?

R: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

R: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

R: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

R: 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.



Questions of Intent

The minister addresses the confirmands:

P: You have made a public profession of your Christian faith. On behalf of this congregation, I now ask you:

Will you regularly gather among God's people in worship, to receive God's Word and share in his Holy Supper?

R: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Will you be a witness to the faith that has been given to you and strive to remain steadfast in God's Word? **R:**

P: Will you be a servant to others and seek to love your neighbors, following in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus? **R:**

P: Will you proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and his lordship in your life through your daily words and deeds? **R:**

Individual Prayer and Blessing

P: As Saint Paul wrote to his student Timothy: "As for you, child of God, flee the things of this world. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." (1 Timothy 6:11-12)

A blessing is repeated for each confirmand. The minister may lay hands upon the head of each in speaking these words of blessing:

P: Father in heaven, for the sake of Jesus, stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit. Confirm *his/her* faith; guide *his/her* life; empower *him/her* in *his/her* serving; give *him/her* patience in suffering, and bring *him/her* to ✠ everlasting life.

When all have received the blessing, the minister closes in prayer.

P: Let us pray. Lord, we thank you for Julia & Archer. By your Word and Spirit, we pray that you would lead them forth in a life of faith and obedience to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.