

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.

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.

2026 MISSION TRIP to Tanzania sign-up sheet is at the back of the church if you are interested in going.

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.

I would like to **thank my church family** and gospel gang for the cards, words of encouragement and prayers which all brought tears. Please continue with prayers as I am doing better each week. God bless all of you.

Shirley DeWeese

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Facebook: JC Grace Lutheran

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

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**The word is near you,
in your mouth
and in your heart.**

Romans 10:8



*First Sunday in Lent
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
March 9, 2025
Traditional Service
8:00 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025 ~ 8:00 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

“By grace you have been saved as a gift of God”. All are welcome here! Let us worship together. 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

The first fruit (indeed any ongoing fruit too) of true religion comes as the result of faith in God. Religion means being bound to God. So, when the early crops start to come up, true faith depends on God for the harvest, not the fact that green has appeared. When the storms of life threaten to blow us away, faith finds shelter in the shadow of the Almighty. Faith believes when all reason demands otherwise. When the most trying struggles command our obedience, faith answers, “It is written,” and remains bound to God, his promises in Word and Sacrament, not the ease and abundance of life.

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: **“Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”**

LBW # 253

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: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

*Greeting

LBW pg. 57

* Kyrie

*Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: Holy God, you journey with your people through the wilderness days of our lives. Guide us by your Spirit that we might repent and return to you; believe with our hearts and confess with our mouths that Jesus Christ is Lord. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem “**Mold Me, Teach Me, Use Me, Lord**”

Adult Choir

Word

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

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

ESV pg # 167

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 91:1-13 (read responsively)

91 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

5 You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

6 nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

8 You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place— the Most High, who is my refuge—

10 no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

12 On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

13 You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson: Romans 10:8b-13

ESV pg # 946

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)

Jingle Offering – Today there will be a “special” offering for our area “We Care Fund”. Any loose change that you have, please place in the labeled jar at the back of the church. Remember that this loose change offering will be used to continue to provide assistance for area families who are in need.

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.

Calling All Young Adults Ages 18-30 You and your friends are gathering **Today, Sunday, March 9 at 9:15 am** in the Fellowship Hall (north end). Purpose: young adults doing life together as followers of Jesus. Our focus topic will be What is Your Purpose in Life?

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).

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

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.

March WOC Collections

Personal Care items for Fish Pond Food Pantry

Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Shampoo, Conditioner,
Liquid hand soap, Bar Soap, Deodorant
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!!!