

Grace and Truth

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Fremont, Ohio

January, 2015



Ash Wednesday - February 18, 2015

Worship with Holy Communion and
Imposition of Ashes - Noon and 7:15pm

The Parables of Lent will be the focus of Wednesday mid-week Lenten worship. Services will be held each Wednesday from February 25 through March 25 at 7:15pm in the Sanctuary.

NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK!

In our efforts of continuing to be good stewards of our monies we have designed a new look for our newsletter.

Our goal is to save on the "3 P's" - Paper, Printing, & Postage. Our hope is to continue getting you all of the news and happenings here at Grace Lutheran.

Some articles will give you the option of connecting to other links to get even more information. These first issues will be a "work in progress" - - let us know what you think!

Please direct your comments and suggestions to Linda at gracefremont@yahoo.com.

Thank you!

**THE CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING
WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2015
AT 11:15 a.m. IN THE SANCTUARY.**

FEBRUARY FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE
February 14 and 15
We will collect Spaghetti Noodles and Sauce.

**MY BROTHERS KEEPER WILL HOLD
ITS FIRST IRISH
BOTCHLUCK ON MARCH 15!**

What is an Irish Botchluck? It's a potluck dinner with a twist. It's not like any other dinner! It's fun and the food is delicious. Watch for further details and ticket information.

THE PARABLES OF LENT

February 18 - ASH WEDNESDAY - *The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector*

- In this parable, the tax collector who repents goes home justified, while the proud Pharisee does not. The parable reminds us that we, too, who repent are justified through Christ.

February 25 - Week One - *The Parable of the Sower and the Seed* - In this parable, the seed that falls on fertile soil takes root and grows, while seeds in other soils fail.

March 4 - Week Two - *The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Priceless Pearl* - In this parable, two men give all that they have to buy objects of great worth.

March 11 - Week Three - *The Parable of the Good Samaritan* - In this parable, a man beaten on the road gets help from an unlikely traveler.

March 18 - Week Four - *The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard*, in this parable, all workers in a vineyard are given the same pay from the master, no matter how long they have labored.

March 25 - Week Five - *The Parable of the Prodigal Son* - In this parable, a wayward son returns to the forgiving embrace of his father, who welcomes him home.

in **YOUTH** **Action**

Preschoolers - Fifth Grade

Tot Time continues to meet! Tot Time is designed for infants through preschoolers, with a parent, to enjoy story time, finger plays and songs! Tot Time will meet at 4:30pm in the lounge, for 20-30 minutes, on *Wednesday, Jan. 28, Feb. 11 and 25*. Come for Tot Time and stay for the Wednesday evening activities of Spirit!

CRAZY KIDS VALENTINE PARTY

(4th and 5th graders)!! On Friday, Feb. 6, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., we will party in the auditorium! Crazy games, snacks, prizes, bingo and laughs are all on the agenda for the night! Please sign up on the bulletin board next to the activities office if you are able to attend. Please feel welcome to bring a friend!

VALENTINE PARTY!

Little Lambs and Little Lutherans (preschool-3rd grade) Saturday, February 14 at 10 a.m. in the auditorium! There will be games, snacks and we will even try our hands at painting with pudding! As always, friends are welcome!

There will be no Kids Clubs or Choir Practices on Wednesday, February 18, due to Ash Wednesday.

Third Grade Children and their Families:

All third graders will receive their first Bibles on Sunday, Feb. 22 during 10 a.m. worship. Please feel free to invite all of your family and friends to this service. If you know a child older than third grade, that has not yet received their Bible, please contact Stacey Reau at the church office.

Coming the Summer of 2015.....

Mark your calendars!!

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio (LOMO) staff are coming to Fremont to host a day camp during the week of June 15-19 for children who have completed grades 3 - 6! The camp will run from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. each day. Meals will be provided and the camp is free! Each day will be filled with new adventures, exciting discoveries and memories to last a lifetime.

Enrollment information will be available soon!

Camp will be limited to the first 100 children.

PRINCESS CAMP

July 7 - 9 - - 9am - 11am

Grace Lutheran Auditorium

All little princesses in preschool through third grade are invited to attend. Each day a new royal adventure awaits - from tea parties, to a spa day, to learning a new princess dance! Watch future newsletters for sign-up information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT GRACE!

July 26 - 30 - - 6pm to 8pm

We will partner again with St. John's and Faith.

Mark your calendars and plan on a week filled with friends and fun!

Take some time to check out what's new in our Church Library... from **CRAZY TALK**



Christ (Messiah): The One promised to save humanity had no idea what it needed saving from.

Christology: The study of theories about Christ. It's that simple.

“... we are followers of Christ, who are committed to mission, ministry, and sharing the gospel.”

The following article, is an update on the Hispanic Ministry - - a ministry in partnership with the five Lutheran churches in and around Fremont and Hayes Memorial United Methodist.

Where are we?

Two years ago, Hayes Memorial United Methodist Church invited the five Lutheran Churches in and around Fremont to join into partnership for their Hispanic/Latino ministry. Hayes UMC has been working in this community for over 10 years providing: a food pantry, clothes closet, classes for English as Second Language, free legal aid, involvement in area migrant camps and many outreach events per year.

The LIFT churches were looking for ways to begin exploring the Hispanic ministry/outreach and so we decided to join into the program already launched by the UMC. Our Methodist partners were a natural fit because both of our denominations had recently reached a “Full Communion Agreement” allowing and encouraging our churches to work and worship together.

This partnership between the Lutherans and Methodists has strengthened our church in ways that we could not have imagined. Not only in Hispanic ministry, but also in mission and in outreach such as Love Your Neighbor Day. By doing ministry in partnership, we have learned that we are not in competition with other churches, we are working together to bring about God’s kingdom. In partnership we can do more together than we ever could alone.

Where are we going?

One of the long term goals of our Hispanic ministry from its inception was to start a Spanish language worshipping community. We knew that this would require a mission developer/church

planter to be a part of church staff. This may seem simple, but is complex. It takes more than someone who speaks Spanish. It requires someone who not only has a mastery of the Spanish language, but also someone who knows and understands Hispanic/Latino culture and who has a pastor’s heart for establishing a new worshipping community from the ground up. This is a difficult and costly combination to find.

Through grant funding from the ELCA, the Northwest Ohio Synod of the Lutheran Church, the local Lutheran Churches and their local mission partners, the West Ohio Conference of the UMC, the Maumee Watershed District of the UMC, we have secured the funding needed to bring this church planter/mission developer on staff. Pastor Jose Rios will be moving to Fremont from Toledo and will start on Feb. 1, 2015.

This will be something brand new. This is something that from day one will be both fully Lutheran (ELCA) and United Methodist. From day one this new worshipping community will be multi-lingual and multi-ethnic. This has not been done before. We know of congregations that have launched Spanish language worship services and we know of congregations that are multi-denominational. But we do not know of any worshipping communities that are intentionally multi-denominational and multi-lingual. This is cutting edge, kingdom building, and radical hospitality stuff.

Why are we doing this?

We are doing this because of Christ commandment that we “go and make disciples of all peoples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.” (Mathew 28:19) We are doing this because the kingdom of God is not just limited to one language or one people. We are doing this because the church of Jesus Christ is open to “...people of all ages, nations and races.” We are doing because as followers of Christ, who are committed to mission, ministry and sharing the gospel we cannot ignore the fastest growing segment of our community.

We are learning as we go. As with any new thing there is a lot that we do not yet know. We do not know what time or where this new worship community will gather. We do not know what it will look like, who will attend, or where it will go in the future. This is a learning/growing experience. We will be learning, exploring and growing over the next several months as the church planter is deployed, new trainings are offered, new prayer groups gather, new study groups are formed and new possibilities unfold.

I want to invite you be in prayer for this next step forward in our Hispanic ministry, for our ecumenical partnership and for our church. Please pray that this church planter and their family would be warmly welcomed, received and loved by our church. Please pray for their success in launching this new worshipping community. Please pray that God’s kingdom would continue to “come here on earth as it is in heaven.”

Peace,
Pastor Jody Rice

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to everyone who donated a coat during the months of October and November. We were blessed to be able to donate 234 coats to Share and Care because of your generosity!

Thank you to Pastor Jody, Pastor Avers, Maureen and the home communion volunteers for your visits to Joan and I. We appreciated you taking the time to come and see us. Thanks to the congregation for the calls and cards inquiring about Joan. To the men and women who served the funeral luncheon, we really appreciated the great food and the variety of delicious desserts. And lastly to Pastor Avers, thank you for officiating at Joan’s funeral service and sharing our family memories.

Jim Ginnever and family

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,
The Lutheran Homes Society Foundation gratefully acknowledges you gift of \$825 to support Lutheran Homes Society. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and enables us to continue providing quality Christian care to our residents.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Lemmerbrock
Executive Director, LHS Foundation

*Dear Grace Lutheran Church,
Thank you for making Christmas more joyful for the individuals and families that have come to Lutheran Social Services for help. Your gift of \$450 has helped us to restore hope as we celebrated the birthday of the One who came to bring joy to the world.*

*In Service to Christ,
Nancy A. Yunker, President/CEO*

ALTAR GUILD - FEBRUARY

Janet Dorr
Sherry Clevenger
Ben & Donna Cooley
Connie Wasserman

U.S. CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES NORTH AMERICA

January 19, 2015

- Alpha session to begin Monday, March 2 at Grace, from 6-8pm. Session ends April 11.
- Vision 2025 - committees are working on their portions
- Bridge of Hope Cooperative Ministry (our Latino outreach ministry), will be calling Pr. Jose Rios as of February 1, 2015.
- Vicar Erin Burns approved to remain for another school term, until summer of 2016. Will continue to work between Grace, St. John's, St. Mark, and Trinity.
- Continuing to update our active membership roles

Christian Missions/Outreach

- Met with Stewardship Committee on Vision 2025
- Small groups to be formed on personal interests - sports, arts, books, etc.
- My Brother's Keeper and S.L.A.M. will host an Irish "Botchluck" on March 15.

Christian Worship

- Continuing to work on Vision 2025
- Discussion Christmas Eve services; may change to 2 rather than 3
- Gathering advice from younger people for worship services
- Chapel curtains estimates for possible replacement

Christian Property

- Met with Schindler Elevator representative regarding maintenance contract

Christian Stewardship

- Joint meeting with Missions/Outreach on Vision 2025

Christian Youth/Growth

- 25 youth attended Snow Tubing event on Jan. 19
- Youth Auction letters to be sent; donations for auction are being requested

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund
As of DECEMBER 2014

	<u>2014 Actual</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>	<u>2013 Actual</u>
Year to date receipts:	483,909	511,000	484,882
Year to date expenses:	<u>480,308</u>	<u>501,000</u>	<u>447,269</u>
Receipts less expenses:	3,601	10,000	37,613

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Armstrong
Financial Assistant


 * THIS MONTH'S *
birthdays

Feb. 4	Amy Lamson	1520 River Dr.
Feb. 5	Ruth Ann Steinle	240 Finke Rd, Apt. 109, Oak Harbor 43449
Feb. 6	Dorothy Dierksheide	16 Linda Dr.
Feb. 8	Doris O'Brien	1715 S. Buchanan St.
Feb. 10	Grant Shriver	1457 Alger St.
Feb. 13	Donna Cooley	1611 Ell Dr.
Feb. 18	Fannie Engler	805 S. Buchanan St., Apt. 105
Feb. 22	George Dabrunz	2017 Port Clinton Rd.
Feb. 22	Joanne Druckenmiller	4300 Co. Rd. 230
Feb. 24	Paula Christensen	224 Yacht Club Dr.

ALPHA: Alpha will begin March 2 **HERE AT GRACE!** Alpha is a program that answers all those questions that are asked by people looking for something to believe in, as well as those who have been Christians their whole life. Questions like: Is there more to life? Why did Jesus have to die? Who or what is the Holy Spirit? The evening consists of a meal, video and small group discussions. Alpha is fun and non-threatening. Come and join us on March 2 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Child care is provided. If you have questions or want to sign up right away contact Maureen at maureenpump@yahoo.com

LIBERTY CENTER UPDATES

We served the following people during the last month: mom and 2 children, mom and 2 children; mom and 1 child, dad and 1 child; 6 single men; 5 single women.

Thank you to Grace Lutheran Church for all of your support over the last year and the special Christmas Eve collection.

The next fundraiser will be Box City on June 15, 2015.

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015.

The newsletter will be assembled on Thursday, February 19.



BAPTISMS

January 17 - *Colan Anthony White*- son of Cody & Shanna (Wright) White.



Calvin R. Olmstead

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jody Rice, Senior Pastor
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James Avers, Visitation Pastor
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Erin Burns, Vicar/Intern
eburns@ltsg.edu
Maureen Pump, Lay Associate Minister
MaureenPump@yahoo.com
Linda Baumer, Office Manager
gracefremont@yahoo.com
Tricia Dabrunz, Secretary/Receptionist
dabrunztricia@yahoo.com
Stacey Reau, Youth Minister - Preschool-5th grade
stacey.reau@gmail.com
Tricia McElfresh, Youth Minister - 6th-12th grade
flmcelfresh@gmail.com
Tricia McElfresh, Director, Noah's Ark Preschool
noahs_ark_fremont@yahoo.com

Worship Services

Saturday 5:00pm - Traditional Worship
Sunday 7:45am - Liturgical Worship
9:00am - Christian Education
10:00am - Celebration Worship/
Holy Communion



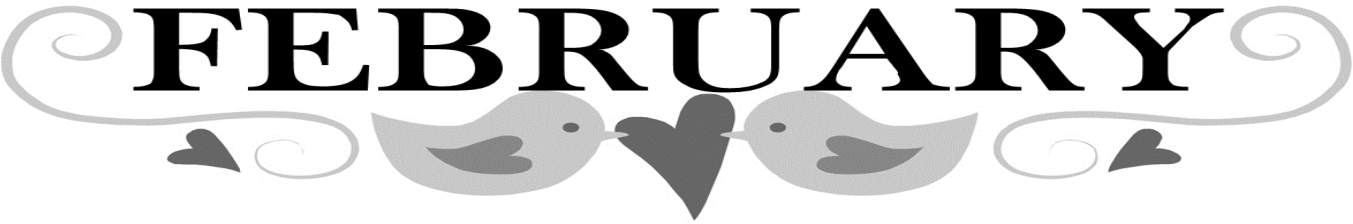


Grace Lutheran Church
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Return Service Requested

Office Hours – 8:30am-5:00pm, M-F
Phone: 419-332-1558
E-mail: gracefremont@yahoo.com
Web page: www.gracefremont.org

**Non-Profit
Paid
Fremont, OH
Permit #133**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ANNUAL MEETING 1 7:45 Worship/Communion 8:55 Senior Choir Practice 9:00 Christian Education 10:00 Celebration Worship/ Communion/Boy Scout Sunday 11:15 Annual Meeting Noon - 2 The Point at St. John's 7:30 DAA	2 9:00 Project Day 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Dartball	3 Noon - Noah's Ark Board Meeting - Dining Room 5:45 Mission/Outreach - Vision 2025	4 SPIRIT 5:00 Meal 5:30 Kid's Clubs 6:15 Kid's Choirs/Study Hall 6:15 Adult Groups 7:15 Confirmation 7:15 Bell Choir	5 11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:00 - Cub Scouts - Pinewood Derby	6 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 6:30 - 8:30 - Crazy Kids Valentine Party	7 5:00 Worship/Communion
8 7:45 Worship/Communion 8:55 Senior Choir Practice 9:00 Christian Education 10:00 Celebration Worship/ Communion 7:30 DAA	9 9:30 MOPS 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Dartball at Kingsway 7:00 Church Council Devotions 7:15 Standing Committees 8:00 Church Council	10 6:30 National Youth Gathering Meeting for Leaders 7:00 National Youth Gathering Meeting for Participants	11 G & T DEADLINE 4:30 Tot Time - Lounge SPIRIT 5:00 Meal 5:30 Kid's Clubs 6:15 Kid's Choirs/Study Hall 6:15 Adult Groups 7:15 Confirmation 7:15 Bell Choir	12 11:30 Soup Kitchen	13 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge	14  10:00 Little Lambs/ Little Lutherans Valentine Party - Auditorium 5:00 Worship/Communion
FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE 15 7:45 Worship/Communion 8:55 Senior Choir Practice 9:00 Christian Education 10:00 Celebration Worship/ Communion/Children's Bells Noon - 2 The Point at Grace 7:30 DAA	PRESIDENT'S DAY 16 9:00 Project Day 1:00 Bible Study-Lounge 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Dartball at St. Paul	17 2:00 Joy Circle - Bethany Place	18 ASH WEDNESDAY Noon Ash Wednesday Worship 6:00 Meal 7:15 Ash Wednesday Worship	19 G & T ASSEMBLED 11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:00 Cub Scouts	20 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge	21  9 - 2 Wedding Planning Seminar 5:00 Worship/Communion
22 7:45 Worship/Communion 8:55 Senior Choir Practice 9:00 Christian Education 10:00 Celebration Worship/ Communion/First Bibles for 3 rd graders 5:00 Intern Comm. - Conf. Room 7:30 DAA	23 9:30 MOPS 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 7:00 Boy Scouts	24 4:30 Tot Time - Lounge SPIRIT 5:00 Meal 5:30 Kid's Clubs 6:15 Kid's Choirs/Study Hall 6:15 Adult Groups 7:15 Lenten Worship 7:45 Bell Choir	25 11:30 Soup Kitchen	26 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge	27 5:00 Worship/Communion	28 5:00 Worship/Communion
						2015



GREETERS

February 1 & 15

7:45 - J. & J. Lajti (Front)
C. Paeth (Baptistry)
Steve Myers (Chapel)

10:00 - D. & J. Linder (Front)
E. & B. Muffler (Baptistry)
K. Burmeister (Chapel)

January 11 & 25

7:45 - D. & C. Polter (Front)
B. & P. Smith (Baptistry)
J. Sachs (Chapel)

10:00 - L. & B. McElfresh (Front)
J. Long (Baptistry)
T. McElfresh (Chapel)

USHERS

February 1, 8, 15, & 22

7:45 - D. Knepper
K. Klohn
B. Zilles
J. Dupey

February 1 & 15

10:00 - T. Troxel
T. & P. Karle
M. Mullholand

February 8 & 22

10:00 - G. Nossaman
S. Nossaman
C. Amor
B. Williams

FEBRUARY 1

ACOLYTES: 7:45 - Aaron Klohn
10:00 - C. Jess, K. Seem
DEACONS: 7:45 - J. Damschroder, R. Haynes, R. House, M. Klohn
10:00 - J. Serwin, B. Williams
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 10:00 - The Wiersma Family
SOUND SYSTEM: N. Mayer (5:00), G. Dupey (7:45), M. McElfresh (10:00)

FEBRUARY 8

ACOLYTES: 7:45 - Alicia Klohn
10:00 - A. Moses, R. Reau
DEACONS: 7:45 - K. Lindsay, C. Paeth, T. Schling, C. Miller
10:00 - C. Waggoner, C. Amor
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 10:00 - The Dabrunz Family
SOUND SYSTEM: B. Bilger (5:00), J. Oliver (7:45), E. Muffler (10:00)

FEBRUARY 15

ACOLYTES: 7:45 - M. Dupey
10:00 - I. Fraley, S. Rutherford
DEACONS: 7:45 - H. Aspacher, J. Damschroder, R. Haynes, R. House
10:00 - J. Avers, D. Cooper
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 10:00 - The M. McElfresh Family
SOUND SYSTEM: D. Pump (5:00), G. Dupey (7:45), R. Hawn (10:00)

FEBRUARY 22

ACOLYTES: 7:45 - Aaron Klohn
10:00 - M. Moses, B. Gedeon
DEACONS: 7:45 - K. Lindsay, C. Paeth, T. Schling, M. Klohn
10:00 - M. Fraley, C. Miller
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 10:00 - The Muffler Family, L. Merrill
SOUND SYSTEM: N. Mayer (5:00), L. Klohn (7:45), M. McElfresh (10:00)

MARCH 1

ACOLYTES: 7:45 - Alicia Klohn
10:00 - S. Widman, C. McElfresh
DEACONS: 7:45 - R. House, H. Aspacher, J. Damschroder, R. Haynes
10:00 - S. Nossaman, J. Serwin
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 10:00 - L. & J. Overmyer, B. Prasuhn, K. Saionz, C. Star
SOUND SYSTEM: B. Bilger (5:00), G. Dupey (7:45), D. Prasuhn (10:00)