

December 2018

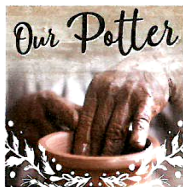
# Grace and Truth

Grace Lutheran Church  
Fremont, Ohio

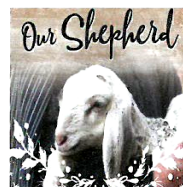


## A Series of Special Services for Advent by Rev. Ted Schroeder

This Advent series focuses on the ways in which God is with us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Each week will focus on a different symbol of the coming Christ found in the poetic and prophetic words of Isaiah. Services will reveal how Christ continues to be present with use even now.



**DECEMBER 5 - WEEK ONE - OUR POTTER:** In our worship for the first week in Advent we will remember that God is with us as our Potter, who shapes us according to his will.



**DECEMBER 12 - WEEK TWO - OUR SHEPHERD:** In our worship for the second week in Advent we will remember that God is with us as our Shepherd, who carries us close to his heart.



**DECEMBER 19 - WEEK THREE - OUR LIVING BRANCH:** In our worship for the third week in Advent we will remember that God is with us as our Living Branch who died and rose to give us eternal life.

CONFIRM

High Plains

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**General Fund**  
As of OCTOBER 2018

	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2017 Actual</u>
Year to date receipts:	385,665	350,117	377,463
Year to date expenses:	<u>392,898</u>	<u>417,938</u>	<u>404,858</u>
Receipts less expenses:	(7,233)	(67,821)	(27,395)

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Morris  
Financial Assistant

**SIMPLY GIVING**

Please review the enclosed Simply Giving envelope and consider joining the growing list of members who are taking advantage of this opportunity! Whether you attend every week, you are a snowbird, on vacation, running around every other weekend with kid's activities or you just want to enjoy the simplicity of the consistency of Simply Giving ..... I think you will find it easy, flexible and spiritually rewarding!

If you have any questions or need help completing or making changes to your existing set up, please contact Linda in the church office, 419-332-1558.

Thank you for your consideration and faithfulness!

Ed Muffler, Stewardship Committee and Vice President Church Council



All end of year donations must be received in the church office by noon on Monday, December 31, 2018 to be credited to your 2018 giving.

**LOOKING AHEAD...**

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Grace Lutheran Church will be held Sunday, February 3, 2019.



“Trees are sanctuaries,” wrote the German poet and philosopher Herman Hesse. “When we have learned to listen to trees... that is home. That is happiness.”

I have been watching the trees in my yard. Listening to them as they sway in the breeze. Listening to the leaves. Listening to the birds and the squirrels as they move about. They bring me great happiness! These trees are tall and reaching to the heavens.

This time of year, the trees are changing... after all it is fall. My black walnut lost all its leaves in two days! Impatient for winter to begin, the tree dropped its leaves like rain drops. It was fun to watch...something changing so quickly.

The oak trees in the back yard...now they hang onto their leaves. Not wanting to let go. Not wanting to move forward. Not wanting to change. But the cold winds will come and all their leaves will fall as well.

We are all a bit like the oak tree leaves. We want to hold onto things as they are without any change. However, we’ve all heard that change is good. That we should move forward. But as often as we hear it, we still struggle with it. Why? Most of us really do not like change. It upsets our comfort levels, leaving us insecure and afraid. It challenges our expectations, our routines, our understanding of the world and how we live in it. But there is one who doesn’t change, who walks with us in every season of life—no matter how easy or difficult.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way” (Proverbs 3:5,6).

We will all face changes in our lives. Embrace! For the Lord is with us!



**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5.**

*The newsletter will be assembled  
on Thursday, December 13.*

*With Sympathy*

*Carl Cooley     Mel Shafer  
Richard Tallman*

**ALTAR GUILD ~ DECEMBER**

Barb Klohn, Mary Nossaman  
Becky Seibert

# WILL YOU HELP?



**IT WILL SOON BE TIME TO HANG THE GREENS!** Yes, it is just about time to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. We will gather after the late service on **November 25** to put up the decorations. If you could lend a hand this job usually takes about 1 hour. Please call the church office and let us know if you plan to help!

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR COMMUNION ASSISTANTS** for the 7:45 a.m. Sunday worship. If you are interested in helping or you would like more information please call, Tricia in the church office, 419-332-1558.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** for the Bridge of Hope Christmas party on **December 16**. We will need help serving dinner. If you are able to help that afternoon please call the church office, 419-332-1558.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE HELP**

### **5:00 FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE**

USHER                      GREETER  
COMMUNION ASSISTANT

### **7:30 CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP**

USHER                      GREETER  
ACOLYTE                  COMMUNION ASSISTANT

### **10:00 CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP**

USHER                      GREETER  
ACOLYTE                  COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Please call the church office, 419-332-1558, if you are able to help.

# LOCAL MISSIONS

## **THE NEXT FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE**

will be on **December 15 & 16** we will be collecting mashed potato flakes and noodles. Thanks to the generosity of this congregation we have been able to regularly donate three boxes of food to the Sandusky County Food Pantry and one box to the pantry at Hayes Memorial UMC. Thank you!



## **NOISY OFFERING UPDATE**



Thanks to your generous donations, the Noisy Offering that was collected in September totaled \$209. The next collection will be **December 1 & 2**. This quarter the Noisy Offering will be given to The Bridge of Hope.

## **LIBERTY CENTER UPDATE**

**REPORT OF THOSE SERVED - October 2018:** mom & 3 children; mom & dad with 2 children, mom & 2 children; 7 women, and 4 men.

The Liberty Center is always in need of paper towels, men's and women's shaving cream, strawberry jam, multi-purpose spray cleaner, and as always, volunteers. If you are interested please call the center at 419-332-8777.

## **SHARE & CARE CAN USE YOUR HELP!**

January is Grace's month to help at Share & Care. If you are able to give some of your time on Thursdays between 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. your help would be appreciated. You are welcome to come and go as your schedule permits.

## **Save the Date...**

**Youth Spring Fundraiser - Friday, March 22, 2019**

Plans are underway to make this a night you won't want to miss! Keep watching for more details!

# Bible Studies

**PASTOR JODY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS & MONDAY GROUP** are doing a study called *Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation*. Sunday group meets at 9 a.m. and the Monday group meets at 1:15 p.m. Both groups meet in the lounge.

**MAUREEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** meets at 9 a.m. in the conference room. The group is currently studying the book *It's Not About Me* by Max Lucado.

**MAUREEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY** meets at 1 p.m. in the lounge. The group is now studying the *Women of the Bible*. All are welcome!

## CALLING ALL BUSY WOMEN!

There is a small group for you. Every first and third Tuesday there is a study for those who are busy juggling their lives and need the encouragement and spiritual support of other women. The sessions last about an hour and you will leave feeling glad you came!



**S.L.A.M.** (Scripture, Life And Me) will start the year with a study by Max Lucado on anxiety. SLAM meets in the large Sunday School room on Wednesday evenings from 6 - 7 p.m. during Refuel. All are welcome!

## Upcoming Events

### GRACE BOOKWORMS

The group is now reading *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Akerman. We will meet on **November 26** to review the book. Everyone is welcome and members buy their own books.



**CHRISTMAS EVE RECITAL** ~ All members of the congregations are invited to share their gift of musical talent with the congregation prior to the start of the 5 p.m. Family Worship on Christmas Eve. To reserve a place in the program please call Jan Serwin, at 419-334-8289. (If Jan is not able to answer, please leave a message with your name and phone number, and she will return your call.) You may also call the church office, at 419-332-1558. All are invited and encouraged to share their gifts!

### CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**December 22** - 5 p.m. worship/communion  
**December 23** - 7:45 a.m. worship/communion  
9:00 a.m. Christian Education  
10:00 a.m. worship/communion  
**December 24** - 4:30 p.m. Recital  
5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight worship/ communion  
7:30 p.m. Candlelight worship/ communion  
10:00 p.m. Candlelight worship/ communion  
**December 29** - 5:00 p.m. Readings & Carols at Grace  
**December 30** - 10:00 a.m. Readings & Carols at St. Mark

## THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you for bringing me the beautiful fall flower arrangement from the altar. The bright yellow flowers brought sunshine to my day.

Thank you,  
Grace Clulow

Thank you to Pr. Jody and Maureen for their prayers before and after my surgery, and to Pr. Jody for bringing communion to me while I was in the hospital. Also, thanks for all the cards and prayers that were sent and for those that called to check up on me.

Peace of the Lord,  
Jim Scranton

**REMINDER:** To our friends who are heading to a warmer climate for the winter months, don't forget to let the church office know your "Winter" address. We want to keep you updated on Grace happenings.



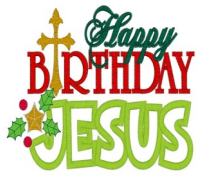
*(The Post Office does not forward the newsletters, so if we do not have your current address or if you leave an order of "Temporarily Away", we are charged postage when your mail is returned to us. If this happens, it will be necessary to take your name off the mailing list until we are notified of your return, to prevent recurring charges.)*

# in ACTION

**TOT TIME** for all toddlers to kindergarteners will take place on *Saturday, December 1 at 10 a.m.* in the lounge. Join us for a Nativity story, craft and a snack!

**WE WILL MEET TO RING THE BELLS** for the Salvation Army on *Sunday, December 2* at the west-side Kroger from noon - 4 p.m. All youth are invited, and those 10 and under should have an adult accompany them. We will then head over to Fort Ball Pizza Palace for dinner and fellowship with the youth from St. John's. The cost of dinner will be covered. Youth can sign up for 30 minute shift by calling the church office or by email at HeatherRHawn@gmail.com .

**BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS!**  
All children are welcome to join us for a birthday party for Jesus on *Saturday, December 15 from 10 - 11:30 a.m.* in the auditorium. We will play games, read a story and have cake! Please bring an unwrapped "present" for the Liberty Center or The Bridge of Hope. This could be: toiletries, hats, gloves, socks or items that they have listed on their websites.



**SUMMER ADVENTURE TRIP**  
This summer will head to Hocking Hills for an adventure, July 12 - 15. Interested middle and high school students should contact Heather Hawn. A \$100 deposit is due to the church office by January 10, 2019. Activities scheduled for this trip include: hiking, kayaking, Tecumseh drama and so much more. Participation in the youth events and fundraisers will be required for youth going on this trip.

**SNOW EMERGENCY POLICY**  
**AS WINTER WEATHER APPROACHES**, please keep in mind our Snow Emergency Policy –  
**When Fremont City Schools are closed**  
- ALL YOUTH ACTIVITIES at Grace are cancelled – Soup Kitchen is cancelled.  
- **LEVEL 2** – Please use your own judgement; we want you to be safe.  
- **LEVEL 3** – WORSHIP CANCELLED; church office closed.

**SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST** will be held on *December 9 from 8:45 - 9:30 a.m.* We will be serving bagels, muffins and fruit. Thank you for supporting our youth!



Funds collected from the November and December breakfasts will be used to sponsor a family from the Sandusky County Community Christmas program.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
The Christmas program will take place on *Sunday, December 9* during the 10 a.m. Second Sunday worship. We hope you will join us as our children share the message of the nativity through the animals of the Bethlehem Stable. *A practice for all participants will be on Saturday, December 8 at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW** for the Spring Fundraiser on *March 22, 2019* at Anjulina's.

**LIFT BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**  
Feeling overwhelmed with the upcoming holidays, living with loss or grief? LIFT invites you to come to a worship service "just for you" to bring comfort and peace. **Sunday, December 9, 4 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church.** During the service, there will be an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of a loved one. All are welcome, please extend an invitation to neighbors, co-workers, friends or family experiencing loss. A **reception and time of fellowship** will follow the service. Pastor Matt, Grief Share leaders, or Pam Kensler can be contacted for more information.



**BRIDGE OF HOPE CHRISTMAS PARTY** will take place Sunday, December 16 at Hayes Memorial United Methodist Church from 3 - 6 p.m. Donation boards are located in the Narthex area and Baker Street entrance.  
**All donations due by Friday, December 7.**



*All women are invited to be our guest at our*

## **2018 Christmas Brunch**

**Saturday, December 8**  
10 a.m. - Noon

*A wonderful morning of  
food, fellowship, and fun entertainment has  
been planned for your enjoyment!*

*All ladies in attendance will enjoy a delicious  
brunch and a fun program presented by  
God's Girls on Wheels!*

*Please join us!  
The cost is free - the only thing we need  
is your R.S.V.P.!*

*Please call in your reservation by **November 30**  
419-332-1558*

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

*Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating 75 years and more!*

December 1	Mary Nossaman	42 Linda Dr.
December 3	Nancy Mills	1677 Celek Dr.
December 4	Sandy Houghtaling	805 S. Buchanan St.
December 6	Gil Rumball	916 North St., Apt. 38
December 7	Barb Klohn	1740 Co. Rd. 229
December 9	Richard Burkett	1170 Muskellunge Rd.
December 10	Patricia Gallagher	532 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
December 10	Nancy Lawrence	699 Rambo Ln.
December 12	Edwin Lamalie	1519 Co. Rd. 129
December 13	Thomas Antesberger	2621 St. Rt. 412
December 17	David McNelly	30 Fox Run Dr.
December 18	Phyllis Jess	1751 Oak Dr.
December 26	Judy Overmyer	541 Elizabeth St.
December 27	Bob Sanborn	1535 Finefrock Rd.
December 28	Ruth Gerstenberger	700 Coulson St., Rm. 105, Clyde 43410
December 29	Nancy Balsizer	2310 Co. Rd. 213, Clyde 43410

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Jody Rice, Senior Pastor  
jjrice2002@yahoo.com  
Maureen Pump, Lay Associate Minister  
maureenpump@yahoo.com  
Linda Baumer, Office Manager  
gracefremont@yahoo.com  
Tricia Dabrunz, Secretary/Receptionist  
dabrunztricia@yahoo.com  
Heather Hawn, Youth Minister ~ Middle/High School  
heatherrhawn@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

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
FOR THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY ON  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22  
and  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23.**

*Office hours will resume on Monday, Nov. 26.*

Blessings to all of you on this  
Thanksgiving holiday!

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
705 West State Street  
Fremont, OH 43420

**Return Service Requested**

Office Hours – 9:00am-4:00pm, M-F  
Phone: 419-332-1558  
E-mail: [gracefremont@yahoo.com](mailto:gracefremont@yahoo.com)  
Web page: [www.gracefremont.org](http://www.gracefremont.org)

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Permit #133



# December

## GREETERS

### December 2 & 16

7:45 - D. & S. Zilles (Front)  
J. Guthrie (Baptistry)

10:00 - L. & B. McElfresh (Front)  
C. Slemmer (Baptistry)

### December 9 & 23

7:45 - L. & D. Garner (Front) *(12/23 only)*  
D. Burkett (Baptistry) *(12/23 only)*

10:00 - W. & A. Lamson (Front)  
L. Halm (Baptistry)

## USHERS

### December 2 & 16

7:45 - B. Schling  
P. Pelphrey

10:00 - G. Nossaman  
S. Nossaman

### December 9 & 23

7:45 - A. & K. Mehlow *(12/23 only)*

10:00 - M. Dabrunz  
L. McElfresh

## CHRISTMAS EVE - DEACON SCHEDULE

5:00 p.m. - N. Wilfong, B. Muffler  
7:30 p.m. - J. Dupey, J. Avers  
10:00 p.m. - C. Amor, D. Burmeister



**DECEMBER 2-** ACOLYTES: 7:45 - V. Dabrunz  
10:00 - D. & K. Seem  
DEACONS: 7:45 - R. House, K. Lindsay  
10:00 - C. Amor, J. Avers  
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 7:45 - M. & T. Dabrunz  
10:00 - A. & B. Fisher, F. Keller, S. Brickner  
SOUND SYSTEM: N. Mayer (5:00), J. Oliver (7:45), M. Dupey (10:00)

## **DECEMBER 9 - SECOND SUNDAY - WORSHIP TOGETHER**

ACOLYTES: H. Seem, P. Russell  
GREETERS: W. & A. Lamson (Front); L. Halm (Baptistry)  
USHERS: M. Dabrunz, L. McElfresh  
DEACONS: M. Billings, M. Gedeon  
COMMUNION ASSTS.: L. & J. Overmyer, L. Stewart, L. Wadsworth  
SOUND SYSTEM: J. Oliver (5:00), D. Prasuhn (10:00)

## **DECEMBER 16 - ACOLYTES: 7:45 - G. Ball**

10:00 - B. Bender, J. King  
DEACONS: 7:45 - L. Widmer, K. Lindsay  
10:00 - G. Jess, J. Moses  
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 7:45 - R. & D. House  
10:00 - M. & M. Gedeon, P. Antesberger, F. Keller  
SOUND SYSTEM: D. Pump (5:00) L. Klohn (7:45) E. Muffler (10:00)







## **DECEMBER 23 - ACOLYTES: 7:45 - Z. Ball**

10:00 - C. Bender, L. Cooper  
DEACONS: 7:45 - L. Widmer, D. Burmeister  
10:00 - B. Muffler, N. Wilfong  
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 7:45 - B. Bradford, K. Overmyer  
10:00 - Hawn Family  
SOUND SYSTEM: N. Mayer (5:00), J. Oliver (7:45), M. Dupey (10:00)

**DECEMBER 30 - FIFTH SUNDAY LIFT WORSHIP** will be hosted by St. Mark Lutheran Church at 10:00 a.m. Come join the service of Readings and Carols with Holy Communion.

## **JANUARY 6 - ACOLYTES: 7:45 - R. Dabrunz**

10:00 - T. & V. Bowlus  
DEACONS: 7:45 - J. Dupey, L. Widmer  
10:00 - C. Amor, J. Avers  
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 7:45 - M. & T. Dabrunz  
10:00 - G. & J. Jess, B. Prasuhn, S. Brickner

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<h1>2018</h1>			<p>1</p> <p>10:00 Tot Time - Lounge</p> <p>5:00 Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering</p>
<p>2</p> <p><b>NOISY OFFERING</b></p> <p>7:45 Worship/Communion 8:55 Senior Choir 9:00 Christian Education 10:00 Celebration Worship/Communion Youth Bell Ringing at Kroger</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 Project Day</p> <p>1:15 Bible Study - Lounge</p> <p>6:30 Scouts 6:45 Dartball</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1:00 Bible Study - Lounge</p> <p>6:30 - 8 Bible Study - Lounge</p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>G &amp; T DEADLINE/ MID-WEEK ADVENT</b></p> <p>5:00 Meal 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Voices of Praise 6:00 S.L.A.M. 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Advent Worship</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:30 Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>7</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>10 - Noon Women's Christmas Brunch</p> <p>10:00 Christmas Program Practice</p> <p>5:00 Worship/Communion</p>
<p>9</p> <p><b>SECOND SUNDAY WORSHIP TOGETHER YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM</b></p> <p>8:45 - 9:30 Breakfast 10:00 Worship Together/ Communion/Christmas Program</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 Scouts 6:45 Dartball</p> <p>7:00 Church Council Devotions 7:15 Standing Committees 8:00 Church Council</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:00 Bible Study - Lounge</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:00 Meal 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Voices of Praise 6:00 S.L.A.M. 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Advent Worship</p>	<p>13</p> <p><b>G &amp; T ASSEMBLED</b></p> <p>11:30 Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10 - 11:30 Birthday Party for Jesus - Auditorium</p> <p>5:00 Worship/Communion</p>
<p>16</p> <p><b>FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE</b> <i>(mashed potato flakes &amp; noodles)</i></p> <p>7:45 Worship/Communion 8:55 Senior Choir 9:00 Christian Education 10:00 Celebration Worship/Communion</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 Project Day</p> <p>1:15 Bible Study - Lounge</p> <p>6:30 Scouts 6:45 Dartball</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1:00 Bible Study - Lounge</p> <p>6:30 - 8 Bible Study - Lounge</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Noon - Joy Circle at home of Grace Sidell</p> <p>5:00 Meal 6:00 Cherub Choir 6:00 Voices of Praise 6:00 S.L.A.M. 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Advent Worship</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11:30 Soup Kitchen</p> <p>6:30 Noah's Ark Christmas Program</p>	<p>21</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>5:00 Worship/Communion</p>
<p>23</p> <p>7:45 Worship/Communion 8:55 Senior Choir 9:00 Christian Education 10:00 Celebration Worship/Communion/Baptism</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b></p> <p>4:30 Christmas Recital 5:00 Family Candlelight Worship/Communion 7:30 Candlelight Worship/Communion 10:00 Candlelight Worship/Communion</p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b></p>  <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:00 Readings &amp; Carols/Communion</p>
<p>30</p> <p>10:00 LIFT Fifth Sunday at St. Mark</p>	<p>31</p> <p><b>End of Year Donations Due by Noon</b></p> <p><b>OFFICE CLOSING AT NOON</b></p>					