Grace and Truth

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CELEBRATED THEIR FIRST COMMUNION ON PALM SUNDAY.

Pictured from left to right, Front Row: Audrey Polter, Aryah Young; Second Row: Amiyah Higgins, Amaiya Gray, Lauren Fry, Colson Smith; Third Row: Baylee Andrade, Kayden Michles, Pamela Russell, Alec Cobb;

Fourth Row: Pastor Jody Rice Not Pictured: Emilio Mendez

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund

As of MARCH 2019

	2019 Actual	2019 Budget	2018 Actual
Year to date receipts:	103,199	103,973	111,905
Year to date expenses:	128,958	138,298	133,467
Receipts less expenses:	(25,759)	(34,325)	(21,562)

Respectfully submitted, Doug Morris Financial Assistant

April 8, 2019

- Church Council nominees will be published beginning April 20/21
- Property Committee continues to gather information for building projects related to the Capital Campaign
- Meetings have been held with 2 sound system companies; information being reviewed
- Planning continues for official launch of Capital Campaign
- Volunteers are needed to serve on the Capital Campaign Committee
- LIFT Mary Carmen has been approved to leave Mexico and join Camino de Vida; expect her to arrive early summer
- Noisy Offering total for 1st quarter \$634.50 will be used to purchase personal care items for the senior center; 2nd quarter collection will support the Food Pantry
- Love Your Neighbor Day is May 18, 2019; middle & high school youth to participate
- Spring Fundraiser 2019 resulted in approximately \$8000
- VBS registration is available online; volunteer training will be held May 5

A WHALE OF A THANK YOU ... TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED OUR ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY FISH FRY!

... to all who bought tickets and donated delicious desserts, many thanks! ...to our wonderful youth helpers: Harley Seem, Madison Hawn, Craig Durell, Ike Durell - you are awesome!

... to the kitchen & clean-up help: Bob & Nan Williams, Jan Harris, Dick & Connie Wasserman, Jeff Rice, Al Mehlow, AJ Mehlow, Tina Moses, Anne Marie Moses, Heather Hawn, Greg Jess - what a great crew!

... to the Fish Fryers: Robert Baumer, Jerry Moses, Mike Billings, Gary Nossaman, Mark Damschroder - you guys are the best!

... and, to our event sponsors - Hal & Di Hawk - a most gracious thank you!

My sincere thanks and appreciation to each one of you that help make this annual event a success!

Linda Baumer, Chairperson Good Friday Fish Fry

Upcoming Events

THE GREAT FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER!



Sunday, May 19 ~ 3:00 p.m.

Our new Director of Music, Tom Curry, will present an organ concert based on music from the Great Fifty Days of Easter. He will be accompanied by members of the Chancel Choir. The choir will sing a setting of Psalm 23 for the program. Organ works performed by Mr. Curry will include works by Bach, Langlais, MacDowell and Dubois.



NOAH'S ARK SUNDAY! Noah's Ark Preschool will share a few of their favorite songs during the 10 a.m. worship on *Sunday, May 5*. Come and listen to their sweet voices!

GRACE FELLOWSHIP 2, will meet at Halls Winery in Clyde on *May 16 at 6 p.m.* This is a group of folks who meet once a month at a local restaurant for food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome, but we need you to call in and reserve a spot in order to make a reservation at the restaurant that will be visiting for the evening. If you would like to join please call the church office at 419-332-1558.

A NEW MEMBER CLASS will be held *on Sunday*, *May 26 at 11:15 a.m.* This class is for anyone who is interested in becoming a member of Grace or just wants to learn more about Grace and what it means to be Lutheran. Anyone who would like to attend should join us in the lounge following the late service. We will then go to a local restaurant for lunch and the class. If you are interested please call the church office, 419-332-1558.

GRACE BOOKWORMS

If you enjoy reading and would like to be a part of a reading/discussion group here at Grace you are welcome to jump in! We are currently reading *My* Southern Journey by Rick Bragg. We will gather to discuss the book on June 3. Please call the church office for the location. Participants are asked to buy their own books.

LOCAL MISSIONS

NOISY OFFERING UPDATE

Thanks to your generous donations, the Noisy Offering that was collected in April totaled \$210. The next collection will be *May 4 & 5*. The offering from the first quarter was used to help provide the residents of Fort Stevenson with personal care products. Thank you to Mindy Gedeon and Beth Muffler who shopped for and delivered our gift.

THE NEXT FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE will be on *May 18 & 19* we will be collecting oatmeal and cereal. Thanks to the generosity of this congregation we have been able to regularly donate seven boxes of food to the Sandusky County Food Pantry. A BIG thank you to Harry Aspacher who has filled in for LaMar Garner, while he recuperates from surgery.

LIBERTY CENTER UPDATE

DRIVE THRU CHICKEN BBQ - *Friday, May 17* from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tickets are \$9. The meal includes: half chicken, baked potato, green beans and a dinner roll. Tickets are on sale now at the Liberty Center or online at www.libertycenter.org

WIN A BRAND NEW CAR! Tickets are on sale now for the Baumann Auto Group Big Charity Raffle. Tickets are \$5. Win your choice of a Chevrolet Equinox or a Jeep Compass. Tickets are available at the Liberty Center, 1421 E. State St. or from Harry Aspacher, 419-680-6382. All proceeds from ticket sales go to the charity that sold the ticket.

GOD IS IN THE MARGINS!

I was diagnosed with breast cancer on Feb. 28th 2019. My life has been one appointment after another ever since. It is all consuming. I plan my days around the journey and think about cancer every single day. Thinking about something like cancer every day is draining, but today this is my life.

My surgery was on March 25th to remove the tumor. As our confession said during Lent, God was in the margins! The cancer had not spread to the lymph nodes nor was it in the margins! We will move forward with five radiation treatments over nine days. A few days after surgery I was informed that my tumor was a grade 3 (aggressive) so they are testing me for possible chemotherapy treatments. They believe I will need four treatments with three weeks between each.

Cancer with all the appointments, surgery, radiation, possible chemotherapy and all the side-effects, can control our thoughts, disrupting us from living the abundant life Christ came to give us...especially during Holy Week. Cancer does not bring good thoughts. What it does is that it can consume our minds...bringing harmful, intimidating thoughts whose purpose is to steal and destroy. What is anyone... who has been diagnosed with cancer to do?

Well here is the Good News. No one is in this cancer walks alone. I have been loved by friends and family alike and am blessed by your presence. Let us always remember that the Holy Spirit cradles us in our walk reminding us that we are triumphant in Christ! And so, when we are tempted to be overcome with worry because of cancer and its dreadful thoughts or any illness, we need to be reminded that we are children of God with all the wonderful promises. We all share in God's peace, mercy and grace. I will be forever grateful for a God who loves me and family and friends who continue to support me.

Shalom! Pr. Jody

THANK YOU NOTES

I would like to thank everyone for their support, love and kindness during my illness. The cards, emails, phone calls, food and prayers have been so appreciated. I am so blessed to be called to serve at Grace Lutheran Church.

Blessings, Pr. Jody

Thank you to all the people who donated candy for the Children's Easter Celebration. Your support helps make this event possible and exciting for the children. This year we had 17 children attend for a morning of Easter stories, games and fun finding eggs. Thank you again for your generosity!

Heather Hawn and the Youth Committee.

A huge thank you to all who were a part of the Spring Fundraiser. From those who helped on the committee, those who donated items, those who helped collect items, and those who attended the event we are grateful for your support of the children and youth programs at Grace.

Thank you to all who donated to the LIFT Caring Teams Lenten project the Binky Bowl 3! We will be counting and delivering your donations around our area. Check out next months newsletter for more information about this project.

Thank you, LIFT Caring Team

Bible Studies

THE YEAR OF SCRIPTURE

This is an opportunity to read the Bible in a year, while meeting once a week to discuss what we have read.

SUNDAY - 9 a.m. with Pastor Jody in the lounge. MONDAY - 1:15 p.m. with Pastor Jody in the

TUESDAY - 1 p.m. with Maureen in the lounge.

MAY READINGS

May 1: 1 Chronicles 3-5

May 2: 1 Chronicles 6

May 3: 1 Chronicles 7-8

May 4: 1 Chronicles 9-11

May 5: 1 Chronicles 12-14

May 6: 1 Chronicles 15-17

May 7: 1 Chronicles 18-21

May 8: 1 Chronicles 22-24

May 9: 1 Chronicles 25-27

May 10: 1 Chronicles 28-30

May 11: 2 Chronicles 1-5

May 12: 2 Chronicles 6-8

May 13: 2 Chronicles 9-12

May 14: 2 Chronicles 13-17

May 15: 2 Chronicles 18-20

May 16: 2 Chronicles 21-24 May 17: 2 Chronicles 25-27

May 18: 2 Chronicles 28-31

May 19: 2 Chronicles 32-34 May 20: 2 Chronicles 35-36

May 21: Ezra 1-3

May 22: Ezra 4-7

May 23: Ezra 8-10

May 24: Nehemiah 1-3

May 25: Nehemiah 4-6

May 26: Nehemiah 7

May 27: Nehemiah 8-9

May 28: Nehemiah 10-11 May 29: Nehemiah 12-13

May 30: Esther 1-5

May 31: Esther 6-10

S.L.A.M. (Scripture, Life And Me) is continuing 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!

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.

CALLING ALL BUSY WOMEN! How is it with your soul? Are you feeling stressed, out of sorts and far from God? If so, how about taking some time for yourself once a month to talk with other women who are feeling the same way. Plan on coming to Frisch's Big Boy on *Tuesday*, *May 6 at 5:30 p.m.* You are welcome to order yourself dinner or just have a beverage while you chat with other women who are juggling life just like you. Questions? Ask Maureen, 419-332-1558 or by email at maureenpump@yahoo.com

Register Now Inaugural Charity Bicycle Ride Saturday, June 8, 2019





co-hosted by LIFT Parish LLC & Flatlanders Bicycle Club to benefit Sandusky County Habitat for Humanity



All ages, experience and speed of riders welcomed for this varying length benefit ride on the North Coast Inland Trail!

Details & Registration materials are available on www.liftchurches.org

Register Early to guarantee an event T-shirt Early Registration ends May 24

Will You Help

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Planning has already begun for LIFT VBS this summer. It will be held this vear at Faith Lutheran Church, June 16 - 20 from 5:45 - 7:30 p.m., with an optional meal being served at 5 p.m. We are looking for volunteers. If you are interested you can sign up by scan-



ning the QR code or at https://vbspro.events/p/lift



NURSERY MINISTER NEEDED! We are looking for a nursery minister to assist our current Nursery Minister, Heather a few hours a month. This position would be about 10 hours a month on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights during the school year. Anyone interested please contact Maureen in the church office at I 419-332-1558.

FIND US ON FACE BOOK! Did you know that there is a closed Facebook Group for youth, parents, and interested members? Gone are the days of updating bulletin boards on a weekly basis. Now that same information can be found at the tips of your fingers. This page is updated frequently with pictures from events, last minute details, and events often before they are published in the newsletter. The page is available through the link below and joining is a simple as requesting to join. If you're not already signed up don't miss out! https://www.facebook.com/groups/FremontGLCYouth/



YOUTH LED SERVICES FOR MOTHER'S DAY

The children & youth of Grace will host a Mother's Day weekend Youth led service the weekend of May 11-12, 2019. There will be a sign up online, a link is available on the Grace Lutheran Youth Facebook (https://www.signupgenius.com/



go/30e0b48a4ae2ea7ff2-mothers2) Sign up also available by contacting Heather Hawn at 419-307-1808 or the church office.

TOT TIME - Our last session of Tot Time for the school year will be held on *June 1*. Toddlers to Kindergarteners are invited to join us at 10:30 am for a story, games and hands on activities in the courtyard. (In the case of rain we will meet in the Lounge.)

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR DAY - Middle & High School youth lets meet as a group and show our love to the community of Fremont! Please sign up by calling the church office by May 1. Then on Love Your Neighbor Day we will meet as a group at Victory Church at 8 am May 18 to be assigned our jobs.

SLIME PARTY - All children in grades 1-5 are invited for a slime party Friday, May 3 from 6 to 8 pm in the dining room. We will meet for pizza and prayers, and some slime making fun! Friends are welcome! Please RSVP to HeatherRHawn@gmail.com by May 1!

PEER MINISTRY - Middle and High School Sunday school continue to work on Peer Ministry lessons. Peer Ministry is a great Bible based curriculum that can enhance youth's social and communication skills. Join us on Sundays at 9:15.

P.A.C. (Parents And Children) will meet on June 8 at 10:30 a.m. for a picnic and play at Briggs-Kettner Park, 600 St. Joseph St, Fremont, Bring a kid/park friendly dish to share. For more information visit the group Facebook page or call Cheryl Paeth at 419-205-3659.

"FALL INTO LAKESIDE" is a new mini-gathering that is being planned by the synod youth leaders. This gathering will take place October 4 - 6 in Lakeside, Ohio. The event will consist of breakout sessions, faith formation, service projects, speakers, the band Attaboy, and worship with Bishop Beaudoin. For more information about how to sign-up you may email Heather at HeatherRHawn@gmail.com or call the church office.



THOUGHTS FROM THE LIFT PASTOR

Thank You

I want to express my most heartfelt thanks to Pastor Matt, musicians, choir, staff, and especially the people of St. John's for the Lift Worship experience on March 31st. It was amazing. Well done! It was so exciting to see people from every church in the parish worshiping together as one body. We were truly blessed as a faithful people. After worship we were blessed again with a delightful lunch and fellowship opportunity. It was nice for me to catch up with people I don't get to see very often, and it was nice to dine together as a foretaste of the feast to come. Thanks again St. John's and I look forward to being together at Hayes-Memorial UMC on June 30.

Lift Worship

Please save the date and plan on attending the Lift worship service on June 30th. Once again we will be asking all of our partner churches to forego regularly scheduled worship services in lieu of the one Lift service at 10:00 am at Hayes-Memorial UMC. Bishop Daniel Beaudoin of the Northwest Ohio Synod along with his counterpart in the United Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Scot Ocke, District Superintendent for the Maumee Watershed District, will be leading us in worship. We will be installing a new minister for the Lift Parish to serve Camino de Vida. The bio for our new minister will be in the June newsletter. After the worship service we will be hosted by the Bridge of Hope for lunch and fellowship as we will be enjoying the Mexican meal provided by volunteers for Bridge of Hope. This is a fund raiser for the Bridge of Hope so please stay and support this vital ministry in Fremont and the surrounding area.

Lift Board of Directors

Please continue to pray for the Lift board as they tackle the responsibility of building a parish for the good of God's kingdom, for the building of God's church, and for the care of all God's people. This is the first year for the new structure of the parish board.

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Jamie Gottron	Chair	St. Mark Lutheran
Steve Hottinger	Vice Chair	St. John's Lutheran
Mary Zucker	Co-Secretary	Trinity Lutheran
Traci Zoller	Co-Secretary	Trinity Lutheran
Eugene Nehls	Member	Emmanuel Lutheran
Norma Elmer	Member	Emmanuel Lutheran
Jan Harris	Member	Grace Lutheran
Maureen Pump	Member	Grace Lutheran
Colleen Carmack	Member	St. Mark Lutheran
Sara Kaltenbach	Member	St. John's Lutheran

Lift Board of Directors continued.

Pastors

Rev. Scott Mauch
Rev. Matt Wheeler
Rev. Jody Rice
St. John's Lutheran
Grace Lutheran
Emmanuel Lutheran

Voice (no vote)

Pam Kensler Lift Parish Director of Discipleship and Outreach

Rev Juli Lejman-Guy Faith Lutheran Voice Member Faith Lutheran

Rev. Alan Brown
Voice Member
Hayes-Memorial UMC
Hayes-Memorial UMC
Stephen Mauch
Lift Parish Treasurer

This year the board is working extremely hard to reach these goals.

• Review & Rebuild the Lift Mission Tables

Equip Leaders

Better intra church communication

- Update the Lift Agreement to include the polity of other denominations for membership into the parish
- Encourage participation in 5th Sunday Worship & other Lift Events
 - ex. Lift VBS, School Supply Ministry, Bridge of Hope, Community Christmas
- Promote the well being of staff.
- Anything else that becomes a concern or opportunity for the parish.

Until next time, Peace, Pastor Scott Lift Parish Pastor

DONUT ANGELS

The Evangelism Team has come up with a new strategy to help make ourselves known to the community. Allow me to introduce the Donut Angels to you.

Every month we are asking that someone in the parish sign up to be a Donut Angel. If you decide to sign up then follow these instructions:

- Karen Schwochow at St. John's has the sign-up sheet. Call, email, leave a voicemail, etc. and Karen will add your name to the month you wish to serve.
- Sometime during that month go to St. John's and pick up the Donut Angels envelope.
- In that envelope there is cash and the Donut Angel business cards.
- Whatever morning you choose in the month you serve, purchase a dozen donuts (Ideal Bakery, Walmart, Kroger, Tim Horton, etc.) and deliver them to a place of business or service in our community. Examples: Dentist Offices, Dr. Offices, Fire Dept., Police Dept., City Hall, School Offices, Law Offices, etc. Be creative.
- Place a Donut Angel business card on the package before you deliver it.
- Tell the recipient that they have been blessed by the Donut Angels and to have a great day.
- Return the envelope with the receipt to Karen so that the next Donut Angel can continue the ministry in the month to follow.
- Tell Karen where you visited so that we do not repeat the visit during the year.

Have fun. We look forward to hearing your stories.

Peace,

Lift Evangelism Team

LIFT DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH - MAY SNAPSHOT

There has been a lot of interest in a **Summer Book Club** and I'm excited to share that our book for this summer's reading will be "**Everybody Always: Becoming LOVE in a world full of Setbacks & Difficult People**" by Bob Goff. Those that would like to read the book are encouraged to check out the book from the library or purchase a copy on their own. We will gather at my home on **Friday, July 19 at 6pm** to discuss the book. Please let me know if you'll be participating in the discussion so we have enough refreshments available! An online discussion will also be held for those unable to attend in person. If needed an additional discussion time will be scheduled!

Last month a brief update was provided on a potential community garden at St. Mark Lutheran. We have decided to postpone starting this project until the spring of 2020 to allow for better planning and to secure ample funding for the project. If you're interested in helping make this garden possible, please plan on attending an informational meeting on Tuesday, July 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the lounge at St. John's. In the meantime watch for a basketball hoop to be in stalled at St. Mark as a first step in creating a welcoming gathering spot for our neighbors.

With you on the journey, Pam K.

Walk By Faith will return to Spiegel Grove for weekly walking each Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. We will meet near the main parking lot. Before heading out to walk we will share a Bible verse and a prayer.

Dinner Church is returning! Our Spring season will be just four weeks, but they will be filled with great food, lively conversation and a new worship leader. Be sure to join us starting April 28th from 6-7pm at Hayes Memorial United Methodist Church. We'll meet May 5, 12, & 19 before taking a summer break. The service is casual and a great space to invite others to join you around the dinner table.

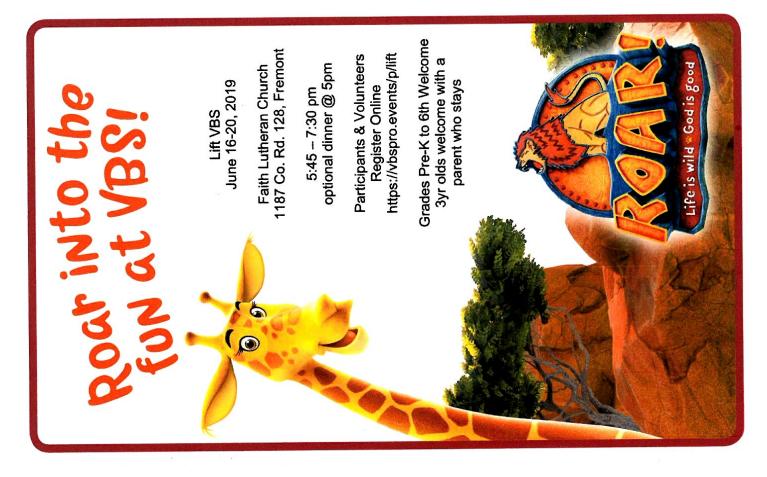
Faith Pause - Join this group of intergenerational adults in the youth room of St. John's from 7-8 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Following a short video a lively conversation connects our modern lives to the Bible.

Office Hours will continue each Friday from 3-4:30 pm at Arby's on State Street in Fremont. This is the place to connect in person with Pam and learn about the latest with LIFT. Remember if you can't make Office Hours you are always invited to schedule a time for conversation with Pam.

LAY PREACHERS NEEDED

The LIFT Parish is in need of individuals who would love to share their faith with others. There are times in the parish when a lay preacher is needed to fill in for vacationing pastors as well as for when the LIFT pastor is preaching at other locations. The Lay Preaching opportunities are listed on the LIFT website www.liftchurches.org and can be found under the Lay Preaching tab. You will be directed to a lay preaching form. You may also contact Pastor Scott by email, pastorscott315@gmail.com, or by phone at 765-343-2275, for a schedule. The position pays \$100 per service or \$150 if you preach the same sermon twice at the same location. Please pray about this and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your decision.

Peace, Pastor Scott





LIFE IS WILD!

What adult doesn't know this to be true?

Join in a laid back Adult Bible Study from 6-7:15pm in the Lounge at Faith Lutheran during VBS June 16-20 No need to prepare for discussion, come as you are for any or all of the nights!

We'll explore the same VBS lessons as the children, spend time in fellowship, complete a simple service project and leave with a reminder that GOD IS GOOD!

Contact Pam Kensler, LIFT Director of Discipleship & Outreach with any questions! pamkensler@gmail.com 419-332-1558



MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

May 3	Marcella Widmer	U. S. Hwy 6 Gibsonburg, 43431
May 4	Clara Bowlus	880 Frederick Ave.
May 4	Walt Lamson	1520 River Dr.
May 5	Sarah Chase	527 St. Joseph St.
May 9	Nancy King	3119 Co. Rd. 174
May 11	James Gruver	1507 Cleveland Rd. E #432, Huron, 44839
May 11	Lynn Wilson	10 Meadowbrook Dr.
May 20	Duane Newman	142 Briarwood Cir.
May 24	Clarence Weickert	318 E. Co. Rd. 89
May 3 May 4 May 4 May 5 May 9 May 11 May 11 May 20 May 24 May 25	Faye Rawson	115 N. Prospect
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DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARITICLES IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 15.

The newsletter will be assembled on Thursday, May 23.



CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

A Congregational Meeting to elect Council Members will take place during all weekend services on May 11 & 12.

Baptism

April 7 - Oliver Lee Prescott, son of Joshua & Kelsey Prescott.

ALTAR GUILD ~ MAY

Bob & Janet Dorr

WE ARE LOOKING for two trumpet players to participate in worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 9, at both 7:45 and 10 a.m. services. If you are a seasoned trumpeter and would like to take part in these services, please contact the church office, 419-332-1558. Thank you!



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



Grace Lutheran Church 705 West State Street Fremont, OH 43420

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Paid Fremont, OH Permit #133

Office Hours – 9:00am-4:00pm, M-F

Phone: 419~332~1558

E-mail: gracefremont@yahoo.com Web page: www.gracefremont.org