
January 2020

Grace and Truth

*Grace Lutheran Church
Fremont, Ohio*

for unto us



a child is born

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 21 - 5 p.m. Worship/Communion

December 22 - 9 a.m. Worship/Communion

December 24 -

4:30 p.m. Recital

5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Worship/Communion

7:00 p.m. Pre-service Music

7:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship/Communion

9:30 p.m. Pre-service Music

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship/Communion

December 28 - 5:00 p.m. Readings & Carols at Grace

December 29 - 10:00 a.m. LIFT 5th Sunday Worship at Emmanuel in Hessville

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund
As of NOVEMBER 2019

	<u>2019 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>
Year to date receipts:	386,756	425,919	433,743
Year to date expenses:	<u>430,353</u>	<u>468,903</u>	<u>430,100</u>
Receipts less expenses:	(43,597)	(42,984)	3,643

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Morris
Financial Assistant

December 9, 2019

- Capital Campaign pledges continue to come in.
(EDITOR'S NOTE: *pledges received to date total \$95,250.00*)
- Building projects reviewed to determine priority
- We will no longer participate in LIFT 5th Sunday services with the exception being the summer outdoor worship and the weekend service following Christmas.
- 2020 Budget Review meeting will be held Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 8:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 2, 2020 at 10:05 in the sanctuary.
- Noisy Offering collected for December totaled \$150.85.
- Food Pantry challenge for November - delivered 5 boxes to Food Pantry, 2 boxes to Hayes UMC
- The "Sound Ball" from the previous sound system has been removed.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

will be held Sunday, February 2, 2020.

The meeting will be called to order at 10:05 a.m. in the sanctuary.

BUDGET REVIEW MEETING - Sunday, January 12, 2020
8:15 a.m. in the sanctuary



REMINDER: All end of year donations must be received in the church office by 4 p.m. on Monday, December 30, 2019 to be credited to your 2019 giving.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

PRESERVING OUR PAST AND EMBRACING OUR FUTURE.....During this season of gratitude, I want to pause and thank you! As a community you represent the best of the Grace Lutheran Church spirit because you believe in supporting what matters. Whether it is your time, talents, or your treasures, I am constantly blown away by your generosity and support! Thank YOU!

In just a few weeks since the campaign launch I am pleased to share with you that we have secured \$95,250 in campaign pledges. Participation has grown to 44 individuals/families. THANK YOU FOR GENEROSITY!

Keep watching the campaign thermometers in the sanctuary and let's make the mercury rise! Additional pledge envelopes will be at each station if you have not had a chance to pick one up!

As always, If you have any questions about the Campaign, please feel free to reach out to me.

I look forward to keeping you updated on our progress!

Have a safe & blessed holiday season!

Ed Muffler, President

Grace Lutheran Church Council

419-680-3581

edmuffler1022@gmail.com

Preserving our Past...



400,000

300,000

200,000

100,000

\$415,000

Our goal

THANK
YOU!

Embracing our Future!

A Capital Campaign for Grace Lutheran Church

April 24, 2020... **LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION !!**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our biggest event of 2020!

The annual Spring Fundraiser will be a fun-filled evening of great food, live music, entertainment, wonderful auction items, and more!

Proceeds from this fundraiser will support our youth through the Grace Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund.

WANTED: Donations for the Youth Spring Fundraiser

We are looking for items of interest... Gift Cards (food, local & area services, stores, etc.), Sporting Event tickets, memorabilia, etc.,

Gift Baskets from businesses, stores, or perhaps one you design yourself!

Handcrafted items... Vacation Get-Aways... The sky's the limit...

You can be creative, however, we will not be able to accept any used items.

Any questions, please call the church office.

Upcoming Events

GRACE FELLOWSHIP 2 will meet at Buffalo Wild Wings, 2200 Sean St., Fremont, on **January 23 at 6 p.m.** This group meets for dinner (*at your own expense*) and fellowship! There is no agenda or business to discuss, we meet to enjoy each others company. Come and join in!

BOOKWORMS NEWS

We are always looking for new members. Bookworms will have their first meeting on January 27 at 7 p.m. For the first meeting, we are reading *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.



Please send your book suggestions for 2020 to Jan Serwin at janiser63@sbcglobal.net

The group meets every other month on the fourth Monday throughout the year. Anyone interested in joining our discussions please contact the church office, 419-332-1558, and leave your contact information with the office staff and a member of the group will contact you with more information.

Bible Studies

MAUREEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY will begin a study called Women of the Bible in January. This group meets every Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the lounge.

JUGGLING ACT!! Do you find you are a woman who is juggling a variety of responsibilities that leave 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 to join us at Frisch's on **Tuesday, January 7 at 5:30 p.m.** You are welcome to order some dinner or just a beverage while we chat. Questions? Ask Maureen, by email at maureenpump@yahoo.com or call the church office, 419-332-1558.

S.L.A.M. (Scripture, Life And Me) takes place Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. This group is open to anyone who wants to take a look at current events and see what the Bible has to say. Come weekly or just jump in whenever your schedule allows. You're always welcome.

LOCAL MISSIONS

NOISY OFFERING UPDATE - The next collection will be **January 4 & 5** and will be donated to Camino de Vida to help expenses for their English as a Second Language class. Thanks to your generous donations, the Noisy Offering that was collected during the last quarter of 2019 totaled \$588. This money be given to the LIFT Laundromat Mission and to Lutheran World Relief for Hurricane Dorian.

THE NEXT FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE

will be on **January 18 & 19**. We will be collecting *canned soup, canned fruit and crackers*. Thanks to the generosity of this congregation we donated five boxes to the Sandusky County Food Pantry and two boxes to the food pantry at Hayes Memorial UMC.

THE LIBERTY CENTER - Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the blessings Grace Lutheran Church has bestowed upon The Liberty Center this year! We could not continue our mission without your help. If anyone wants to provide some homemade cookies to the Center, the residents always appreciate them this time of year. We are also in need of at least two more staff volunteers. If you are willing to give about four hours per month and receive a couple hours of training please contact The Liberty Center at 419-332-8777.

JANUARY IS GRACE'S MONTH TO VOLUNTEER at SHARE & CARE. If you have a few free hours on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Share & Care would appreciate your help. If you are able to help just go down to Share & Care to lend a helping hand.

Hope

CHANGES EVERYTHING

My life has forever changed. I am a cancer survivor, but I also know that cancer never really goes away. I am not cured. I have simply finished my treatments.

Having this disease...well it is like running into a brick wall. It took me by surprise. I have had to process this new reality and I believe that I came out of it stronger in my faith and, closer to God.

But if we let the change or crisis in our lives touch us, if we live with it and embrace it, we are more likely to grow and to move eventually to another level of faith in our journey. When we are most vulnerable, we have the best chance to learn and move along the way. In the midst of pain there is always God's promise.

I am a blessed person. Blessed because I know Jesus. Blessed because I am here at Grace Lutheran Church. Blessed because in my pain and suffering you were there for me. You became the bright light of Christ when I needed it the most. Thank you, my friends. Thank you...

May God's blessings be yours this Christmas season!
Pastor Jody

THANK YOU NOTES

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE for giving of their time and abilities to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas: John Avers, Bill and Clara Bowlus, Mike, Tricia, Ryan and Virginia Dabrunz, Jill Gray, Jerry and Tina Moses, Jim Post, Duane and Maureen Pump, and Charlotte Urban. A special thank you to Jill Gray and Charlotte Urban for having the vision for our sanctuary decorations! Also, thank you to Jodi and Austin Jess for putting up and decorating the beautiful Christmas tree that was donated by Ron and Helen Jess!

A big shout out to Boy Scout Troop #307 for yard clean-up around the church! They raked and bagged a LOT of leaves! Thank you!!

As Winter weather approaches, please remember our weather policy:

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY -

When Fremont City Schools are closed:

- ALL ACTIVITIES at Grace are cancelled.
 - SOUP KITCHEN is cancelled.

LEVEL 2 - Please use your own judgment; we want you to be safe.

LEVEL 3 - WORSHIP CANCELLED; Church Office Closed.

Information about what level the county is at is available at the Sheriff Department's recorded line - 419-332-2613.

Thank you to all the ladies who came to the Christmas Brunch! We all enjoyed the morning filled with great fellowship, laughter, and singing! It is always a blessing when we take time out of our busy Christmas preparations to gather together as sisters in Christ.

Merry Christmas!

To the Congregation of Grace Lutheran Church,

The Symphony Committee would like to thank you for supporting another sold out Toledo Symphony Community Christmas Concert. The Christmas music was especially beautiful this year! For the first time in our memory, the conductor accompanied a segment of the program, which was a very animated medley of Charlie Brown Christmas music; as always the evening ended with an enthusiastic sing-a-long and an encore of Sleigh Ride. If you were not able to attend you have another chance on December 3, 2020 when the Toledo Symphony will return to help us kick off the 2020 Christmas season. Special thanks go to the underwriters that support the cost of this event, which allows us to have a lower ticket price for the general public.

We have a beautiful church which provides a unique setting for this most special event.

Thank you again for supporting the concert.

Yours in Christ,
The Symphony Committee

Janet Dorr, chairman;
John Avers, Tom Curry,
Mary Nossaman, Dan & Carol
Polter, Pastor Jody, Betty Jo
Sherman and Charlotte Urban



in YOUTH Action

CONFIRMATION 2019-20 SCHEDULE

Confirmation will meet one Sunday a month from 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

- ♦ January 12 at St. John's
- ♦ February 16 at Grace
- ♦ February 22 visit the Islamic Center
- ♦ March 15 at St. John's
- ♦ April 19 at Grace
- ♦ May 17 at St. John's
- ♦ May 31 Confirmation Day



Children are always welcome in worship here at Grace. Children's Church will be offered during the 9am worship service. Children

elementary ages and younger are invited to attend following the children's message. Children age 3 to kindergarten attend with Mrs. Penny Russell in the Preschool Room in the Sunday School Hallway. Children 1st - 5th will meet in the large Sunday School Classroom. Children are brought back to the sanctuary during the sharing of the peace and the offering.

SERVICE SUNDAY - All children and youth are invited to meet in the auditorium on **January 12 from 10:15 - 11:30 a.m.** for a service project.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH OFFERING - We will start collecting an offering during Children's church. The offering collected will be given to the Liberty Center.

CHEAP SKATE - Middle & high school youth are invited to go ice skating at the Fremont Rec Center on January 26 from noon - 1:30 p.m. ***There is no cost for this event if you RSVP by Sunday, January 19.***

NOW RECRUITING FOR GOD'S ARMY! Calling all kids preschool - fifth grade for Boot Camp on January 11. Enlistees should report to the auditorium at 09:30 hours. This training session will conclude at 11:30 hours. Join us for a morning of finding out what it means to be in God's Army, games and snacks.

FAITH FORMATION for Middle & High School Youth will begin January 2020. We will meet in the youth room from 10:15 - 11:00 am. Join us for Jesus, coffee and the occasional service project.

January 5 - Brainstorm for Summer Service Project ideas
January 19 - Movie Day

January 12 - Service Project
January 26 - Movie Day

LIFT DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH SNAPSHOT - January 2020

As we begin a new decade, so too will I begin an additional position in the community as the Executive Director for Sandusky County Habitat for Humanity. In order to achieve balance in my life, I will begin decreasing my weekly hours for LIFT in January. This decrease will primarily mean a slower worship rotation through our congregations. I will remain available by e-mail (pamkensler@gmail.com) or text/call (630-962-1210) and you are always invited to visit me during "office hours" on Fridays from 3-4:30pm at Arby's. Once I have a more established pattern of my "normal" hours I will be sure to share those with you! Wishing you all many blessings in this new year!

With you on the journey,
Pam K.

A Note of Thanks to You!

We wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude for your on-going generosity to Grace Lutheran Church. You have tangibly blessed so many through your faithful stewardship: our Fall into Lakeside youth trip, the annual Spring Fundraisers, our current Capital Campaign, continued support of Camino de Vida and many, many more. Lives are touched because of your commitment.

We are currently \$40,000 behind in our giving plan. We need your continued support to keep the ministries of Grace vibrant and alive. If you have not had the opportunity to contribute during 2019, will you prayerfully consider to do so? Our ministries of Grace are making a difference here in Fremont. We need you... to help grow God's kingdom here on Earth!

Blessings...

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Burmeister".

Kathy Burmeister, Chair
Christian Stewardship Committee

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

January 1	Joyce Wickert	2375 McGormley Rd.
January 2	Richard O'Donnell	4380 Co. Rd. 183 Clyde
January 2	Ardis Curliss	720 Tucker Rd.
January 4	Gary Willey	2737 N. River Rd.
January 6	Janice Serwin	1997 E. State St.
January 8	Eugene Mills	1677 Celek Dr.
January 9	Carole Miller	1830 Port Clinton Rd.
January 9	Loretta Seiberg	151 W. Drew Ln. Clyde
January 9	Evelyn White	609 Whittlesey St.
January 10	Lois Oberst	725 Columbus Ave. #419, Fostoria 44830
January 12	James Streeter	2022 Roselawn Dr.
January 15	Helen Zilles	131 Berkshire Dr.
January 22	Gary Nossaman	42 Linda Dr.
January 25	Margaret McGue	1545 Buckland Ave.
January 25	Marleen Savage	136 Briarwood Circle
January 25	Les Widmer	7415 US Hwy 6, Gibsonburg 43431
January 28	William Sherick	1407 Rosewood
January 30	Patricia Rife	5212 St. Rt. 101, Clyde

Baptisms

December 8 - Ayden Charles Swigart
son of Devyn Swigart and Jamie LaDue

NEW BABY

Samuel Hayes Woughter,
son of Joe & Laura (Burmeister) Woughter

ALTAR GUILD ~ JANUARY

Bob and Janet Dorr



**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 15.**

***The newsletter will be assembled
on Thursday, January 23.***

To all of our faithful volunteers who help in the church
office throughout the year with weekly bulletins and
the monthly newsletters, we thank you
and we appreciate you!!

Merry Christmas!

Linda and Tricia

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jody Rice, Senior Pastor
jjrice2002@yahoo.com
Maureen Pump, Lay Associate Minister
maureenpump@yahoo.com
Linda Baumer, Office/Financial Administrator
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
Tom Curry, Director of Music,
musicatgracelutheran@yahoo.com

Worship Services and Sunday School

Saturday 5:00pm - Traditional Worship

Sunday

8:00am ~ Adult Sunday School

9:00am ~ Worship/Holy Communion

9:00am ~ Pre-K ~ 5th grade Sunday School

(at a designated time during worship)

10:15am ~ Faith Formation ~ 6th-12th grade youth



Grace Lutheran Church

705 West State Street
Fremont, OH 43420

Return Service Requested

Office Hours – 9:00am-4:00pm, M-Th

9:00 a.m.-1:00p.m., F

Phone: 419-332-1558

E-mail: gracefremont@yahoo.com

Web page: www.gracefremont.org

Non-Profit
Paid
Fremont, OH
Permit #133

JANUARY 5 -

ACOLYTES: Z. Ball, I. Durell

GREETERS: T. O'Brien (5:00 p.m.)

S. Watkins, L. Widmer (Front), J. Guthrie (Baptistry) (9:00 a.m.)

USHERS: P. Pelphrey, B. Williams

DEACONS: K. Lindsay, J. Harris

COMMUNION ASSTS.: D. & R. House, A. & B. Fisher, M. & M. Gedeon

SOUND SYSTEM: (5:00); (9:00)

JANUARY 12 -

ACOLYTES: C. Durell, K. Durell

GREETERS: V. Seville (5 p.m.)

R. & L. Baumer (Front), K. Burmeister (Baptistry) (9:00 a.m.)

USHERS: D. & S. Burmeister

DEACONS: J. Avers, M. Gedeon

COMMUNION ASSTS.: P. Antesberger, F. Keller, B. Bradford, S. Brickner, G. & J. Jess

SOUND SYSTEM: D. Pump (5:00); R. Hawn (9:00)

JANUARY 19 -

ACOLYTES: V. Dabrunz, L. Ball

GREETERS: T. O'Brien (5:00 p.m.)

M. & J. Damschroder (Front); J. Gangwer (Baptistry) (9:00 a.m.)

USHERS: M. Dabrunz, D. Cooper

DEACONS: K. Burmeister, J. Harris

COMMUNION ASSTS.: Hawn Family, D. Zilles

SOUND SYSTEM: J. Oliver (5:00); D. Prasuhn (9:00)

JANUARY 26 -

ACOLYTES: J. King, R. Dabrunz

GREETERS: V. Seville (5:00 p.m.)

L. & D. Garner (Front), J. Guthrie (Baptistry) (9:00 a.m.)

USHERS: G. Dupey, R. Haynes

DEACONS: B. Hollister, K. Lindsay

COMMUNION ASSTS.: M, T. & V. Dabrunz, B. Prasuhn, K. Overmyer

SOUND SYSTEM: D. Pump (5:00); L. Klohn (9:00)

FEBURARY 2 -

ACOLYTES: B. Bender, C. Bender

GREETERS: T. O'Brien (5:00 p.m.)

D. & C. Polter (Front), L. Halm (Baptistry) (9:00 a.m.)

USHERS: K. Klohn, L. McElfresh

DEACONS: B. Muffler, K. Smith

COMMUNION ASSTS.: L. & J. Overmyer, A. & B. Fisher, T. Schling, P. Antesberger

SOUND SYSTEM: J. Oliver (5:00); T. Wiersma (9:00)



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



OFFICE CLOSED

			1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4 5:00 Worship/Communion/ Noisy Offering
5 NOISY OFFERING 8:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:15 Faith Formation- Grades 6 - 12, Youth Room	6 9:00 Project Day 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:30 Dartball at Hessville	7 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 5:30 Coffee & Jesus at Frisch's Big Boy	8 5:00 Meal 5:30 Cherub Choir 6:00 Voices of Praise 6:00 SLAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir Practice	9 9:30 - 3 Grace Volunteer at Share & Care 11:30 Soup Kitchen	10	11 9:30 - 11:30 God's Army Boot Camp, Auditorium (Pre-K to 5th grade) 5:00 Worship/Communion
12 8:15 2020 Budget Review - Sanctuary 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:15 Faith Formation- Grades 6 - 12, Youth Room 11:45 Confirmation at St. John's	13 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:30 Church Council 7:30 Dartball at Clyde	14 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge	15 G & T DEADLINE 5:00 Meal 5:30 Cherub Choir 6:00 Voices of Praise 6:00 SLAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir Practice	16 9:30 - 3 Grace Volunteer at Share & Care 11:30 Soup Kitchen	17	18 5:00 Worship/Communion/ Food Pantry Challenge
19 FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE (cans of soup or fruit & crackers) 8:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:15 Faith Formation - Grades 6 - 12, Youth Room	20 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:30 Dartball at St. Paul's	21 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge	22 5:00 Meal 5:30 Cherub Choir 6:00 Voices of Praise 6:00 SLAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir Practice	23 G & T ASSEMBLED 9:30 - 3 Grace Volunteer at Share & Care 11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:00 Grace Fellowship 2 at Buffalo Wild Wings	24	25 5:00 Worship/Communion
26 8:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:15 Faith Formation- Grades 6 - 12, Youth Room Noon - 1:30 Cheap Skate at Rec Center, youth grades 6 -12	27 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 Bookworms 7:30 Dartball at Grace	28 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge	29 5:00 Meal 5:30 Cherub Choir 6:00 Voices of Praise 6:00 SLAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir Practice	30 9:30 - 3 Grace Volunteer at Share & Care 11:30 Soup Kitchen	31	2020