

Grace & Truth

Grace Lutheran Church
Fremont, Ohio
December 2023

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Office Hours –

9:00am-4:00pm, M-Th
9:00am-1:00pm, F

Phone: 419-332-1558

E-mail:

gracefremont@yahoo.com

Web page:

www.gracefremont.org

Advent



"The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed"

WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT— DECEMBER 6, 13, 20

6:30 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY



*Purchase a Poinsettia in Honor
or Memory of a Loved One.*

Help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas!

*Christmas Poinsettias can be ordered through the church office. Plants are \$12.50 each. Payment and wording for the bulletin must accompany orders. **Deadline for orders is noon on Friday, December 15.***

Plants can be picked up after the 9 P.M. service on Christmas Eve.



Ladies Christmas Brunch

All women are invited to be our guest at the annual Ladies Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 2 from 10 a.m. - Noon in the Grace Lutheran Church Dining Room. We have a delightful morning planned just for you with food, fellowship, and fun!

As part of our festivities, we will have an ornament exchange! We ask that each person attending, bring a new, unwrapped Christmas ornament. A free-will offering will be collected for the Bridge of Hope.

Please join us! Call in your reservation to the church office - 419-332-1558 - by Monday, November 27.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARK

I'd like to begin this message by telling you about the organist at my previous interim congregation, St. John's in Bellevue. Her name was Marlene Buck, and on Reformation Sunday in 2018, we recognized her on the 60th anniversary of her service as the organist at St. John's. Her six decades of faithfulness were noted during the service, and afterwards we gathered in the fellowship hall to continue the celebration with a dinner in her honor.

One of the marks of Marlene's service as organist at St. John's is that over those 60 years she never missed a Christmas service at St. John's. Not a single one. Not until Christmas of 2019, when declining health prevented her from playing. Marlene died in March of 2020 at the age of 85.

I will tell this story to illustrate the role that Christmas and its celebration plays in our life as a congregation. We love coming to worship on Christmas Eve to a fully decorated sanctuary, adorned with greens and a densely lighted Christmas tree. We love singing the familiar Christmas carols, especially *Silent Night* as we light our candles in a darkened church. As we sing and the light increases, it's easy for us to be overcome with emotion. It is an experience of the splendor of our church and its worship. Like Marlene, we want to be there every year.

But beyond the splendor and beauty of a congregation's Christmas worship we can also experience the negatives of life in a congregation. Disagreement, hurt feelings, unrealized expectations to name just a few.

It is easy to forget that a congregation functions as an emotional system. Dr. Peter Steinke, founder of the Healthy Congregations organization and prolific writer on congregational life, puts it this way: "As long as people gather and interact, emotional processes occur." To further quote Dr. Steinke:

There are positive aspects of these processes -- joy, comfort, support, cooperation, and friendship. But emotional systems are innately anxious. The downside.... is the intense anxiety that distracts a congregation from its purpose..."

Dr. Steinke's life work was dedicated to learning how emotional systems affect congregations and helping them recognize and manage anxiety. This concept of anxiety maintenance was central to my training as an interim pastor, in which we are encouraged to be a "non-anxious presence" in our interim congregations, which is often, as the saying goes, "easier said than done."

Every congregation experiences anxiety, but anxiety grows during periods of transition when questions center on leaders: Who will be our next pastor, and how much longer do we have to wait? Who will be our next organist and choir director?

As we enter the season of Advent and look forward to Christmas, we are reminded of the promise of Scripture, that a virgin will conceive and bear a son, and his name will be Emmanuel, which means "God with us."

Jesus is our supreme non-anxious presence, God with us, who spoke an authoritative word of "peace" to the elements and brought calm. And who can forget his words of assurance on another occasion in John 14: "Do not let your hearts be troubled...Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

May each of you know and claim this non-anxious presence, this peace, in your lives as we move into and through this most holy season.

Grace Stories



Judy Overmyer is a self-proclaimed gypsy who has come from a whole line of gypsies. Judy was born here in Fremont and began her faith journey in a Brethren congregation. Judy remembers going up for an altar call and receiving a new Bible that she never used because it is an original King James. Eventually Judy's family went to the East Side Presbyterian Church. The summer before Judy's senior year at Ross High her family decided to move to Florida. That might be a hard move for a teenager going into their senior year, but Judy is a people person who loves adventure, so she was excited to make the move. Florida was wonderful and Judy planned to stay there but her family decided to come back to Fremont. So, after graduation Judy and her family came back to Fremont.

God must have had a plan for Judy because after she came back to Fremont she and Larry began to date and eventually married. Larry's family worshipped at what is now, Faith Lutheran, so Judy became Lutheran and began to worship at Faith. Because of Larry's work schedule which included driving the milk truck on Sunday mornings, Judy worshipped alone with their three boys.

One day their son, Todd, was kicked in the ankle by a horse which meant they wound up in the emergency room at Memorial. It was there that they met Pastor Paul Fuchs, who was the pastor here at Grace at the time. Judy was so

impressed and grateful that Pastor Paul spent at least fifteen minutes with them that she began to visit Grace. She enjoyed our Christmas Eve services and felt at home at Grace from the very beginning because she knew so many people. Eventually she convinced Larry to make the move from Faith to Grace and Judy the gypsy found her family of faith.

As the owner/operator of a hair salon, Judy enjoyed all the people she was in contact with. After retiring Judy took that same interest in people and desire to serve and got more involved than she already was at Grace. Judy says her involvement with Altar Guild, Joy Circle, Bible Study, and Church Council give her life meaning.

Growing up attending church, being involved in Bible studies and learning to be a person of prayer has helped her deal with the challenging times in her life. Having a set of twins plus another son all within three years was a challenge but her faith gave her strength. Judy learned to turn to and depend on prayer when she had to, what could have been life-ending experiences. While living in Florida during her senior year in high school Judy was swimming in the gulf. It was right after a hurricane had passed through the area and the waves were very high and powerful. Judy began to grow tired of struggling against their power and was sure she was going to drown. At last, a lifeguard noticed her struggling and went in and saved her. After it was over, and she was safe, she realized she had allowed fear to take over and she had not turned to prayer.

The second time Judy experienced this kind of experience she and Larry were coming back from Kelly's Island. A nor'easter had blown in and the waves were battering the boat so much Judy was sure they would capsize. This time though she turned to God immediately in prayer. She did not stop praying all the way back to the dock.

This is how Judy feels about her faith journey. She invests in her spiritual health through worship, study, prayer and time with other Christians. The return on this investment is worth far more than what has been invested because Judy has a faith, peace and joy that is invaluable.

Judy has the heart of a gypsy but all the travels she has taken or may take will always bring her back to her home in Fremont and her church home here at Grace.

JUST 4 FUN

BOGGLE

DIRECTIONS: Write as many words as you can using the following rules. 1: The letters in the words must be connected in the grid. 2: The letters can be connected by an edge or a corner. 3: The words don't have to appear in straight lines. 4: Each letter in the word must uniquely appear in the grid. For example, if the word is ERASE, the letter E must appear twice in the grid. The word can't just loop back and reuse the same E. 5: Words must be at least three letters long. 6: Words cannot be proper nouns, such as names or places. Write your words in the spaces provided. Write as many words as you can and then give yourself a score. See if you can beat a score of 50!

S	M	S	E
M	U	G	M
R	E	N	A
F	U	F	L

SCORING

3 letters = 1 pt _____
 4 letters = 2 pts _____
 5 letters = 3 pts _____
 6 letters = 4 pts _____
 7 letters = 5 pts _____

BRAIN TEASERS

1. WHAT GETS WETTER AND WETTER THE MORE IT DRIES?
2. WHAT CAN YOU CATCH BUT NOT THROW?
3. WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND RED ALL OVER?
4. WHAT GETS COVERED IN DIRT BUT ALWAYS STAYS CLEAN?



Answers: 1. A towel; 2. A cold; 3. A newspaper; 4. A bar of soap

WORDS (some of the possibilities)

age emu fun fur gum gun man mug nag rug sue sum sun use ages fame fang flag flag flin game gens germ guns lame lane mugs muse name nags rugs ruse smug surf flags fangs flane games genius germs names renal reuse flange frugal magnum manure rename summer enflame renames

BIBLE STUDIES WITH MAUREEN take place on Mondays at 1 pm in the lounge and Tuesdays at 1 pm via Zoom with Christine Schneider-Smith. These groups will be studying the book of Esther. Contact Maureen for the Zoom link by emailing her at maureenpump2022@gmail.com

GRACE GATHERS will meet on *December 21 at 6 pm* at the Chateau Vineyard and Winery, Helena. Come for dinner or just a drink and some fellowship. Questions or to make a reservation please contact Maureen in the church office at 419-332-1558 or by email at maureenpump2022@gmail.com

JUGGLING ACT

Family, career, social life, taking care of a home, are many of the things that women juggle every day. Sometimes it's nice to gather around a meal that is being served to you and chat with other women who are also juggling the demands of life. Juggling Act meets at 5:30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We will meet on November 28. If you plan to attend please call the church office, 419-332-1558. Hope to see you there!



BOOKWORMS will meet on *November 27 at 2 pm* in the lounge to discuss *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeannette Walls. If you would like to participate virtually please email Maureen at maureenpump2022@gmail.com and she will send you the Zoom link for the meeting on November 28 at 11 am.

SUNDAY MORNING WITH MOE will take place each week following worship at 10:15 am. The group will meet in the lounge to discuss the gospel message for the day.

FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE

Bring your donations to worship on *December 16 & 17*. This month we will collect mashed potato flakes and noodles. A special thank you to Jan Harris for delivering three boxes of food to the Sandusky County Food Pantry in October. *Please place your donations in the grocery carts that are located in the Narthex and by the Baker Street entrance.*



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A SPOUSE - If you have lost your spouse and could benefit from the support of others who are experiencing the same grief, this group is open to you. Join us on *November 20 and December 18 at 6 pm* in the church lounge. This is a time when we share a devotion, prayer and mutual support through discussion and shared experiences. Questions? Call Maureen in the church office or send an email to maureenpump2022@gmail.com



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.)

youth MINISTRY

YOUTH COMMITTEE will meet on December 11 at 6:45 pm in the youth room.

KIDS ZONE meets during worship! Children are welcome to join us following the Children's message and we will return to worship before communion. Toddlers - 1st graders will meet with Penny Russell and 2nd - 5th graders will meet with Danielle Wagner.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - THE ABC'S OF CHRISTMAS which will be presented during worship on Sunday, December 17.

SPIRIT

INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE will now meet in the Sunday school hallway from 5:45 - 6:30 pm. We will be working on a couple of pieces for our Christmas program.

OPEN YOUTH ROOM & AUDITORIUM - Youth and children are invited to explore and play in the youth room and auditorium from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. You are welcome to bring games to play while you hang out with friends.

INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We are looking for someone with musical talents to lead this group of children and help them grow in their love of music. This group meets each Wednesday from 5:45 - 6:30 pm. If you are interested please contact Heather by email at HeatherRHawn@gmail.com

ACOLYTES at Grace serve during the 9 a.m. service. We encourage acolytes to sign up at least once every other month. Please scan the QR code to sign up.



2024 YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

CREATED
TO BE

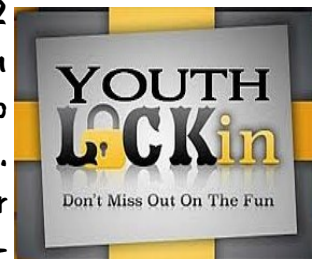
It's not too late to register for the ELCA Youth & Young Adult Gathering will be held in New Orleans July 16 - 20, 2024. The Youth Gathering is open for students entering 8th - those that have just completed 12th grade. The Young Adult gathering is open to ages 18 - 35. For more information visit <https://www.elca.church/gathering> or contact HeatherRHawn@gmail.com.

YOUTH IN GRADES 5 - 12

are invited to a Lock-In on December 15 at 7:30 pm to December 16 at 8 am.

Please RSVP to Heather by email at Heather-

RHawn@gmail.com by December 11. Watch our Facebook page for more details.



SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS will focus on Advent and preparing for the Christmas program during the month of December. *Please note that Young Samaritans and Community Building will not meet this month.*

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY - Pack 302 has refurbished an old newspaper stand to use as a Free Library here at Grace. It is located at the Baker Street entrance. There are books for all ages. Please feel free to help yourself to some "new to you" reading material or drop off an old favorite to share with someone new! Books may be returned to any of the free libraries in Fremont: Wendt Key, Fremont Rec Center, St. Mark's, or ABC Day Care Center.

LIFT NEWS: DECEMBER '23

Enter, Holy Pilgrims!

Entren, santos peregrinos, or “Enter, holy pilgrims” is a line traditionally sung during a posada, a Mexican celebration that reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking lodging on their trip to Bethlehem. Participants often travel from room to room or house to house, asking for welcome, but always rejected. Finally, when recognized as Mary and Joseph, they are welcomed as holy pilgrims. Bridge of Hope and Camino de Vida, two LIFT ministries, will be hosting a Christmas posada on Saturday, December 2 from 3:30-5:30 pm. The event will include dinner, worship, breaking a piñata, and distributing gifts to children. This posada is an intentional gathering, specifically designed to be a welcoming time of togetherness and hospitality for the Hispanic community around Fremont. We are grateful to the LIFT congregations who provided toys for the children at the event.



POSADA NAVIDEÑA

Christmas Posada
December 2
3:30-5:30 PM
Hayes Memorial UMC
1441 Fangbener
Fremont, OH 43420



CAMINO DE VIDA
BRIDGE OF HOPE

LIFT Advent Wednesdays

Come together on Wednesday evenings in Advent: December 6, 13, 20. Worship will be at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary of Grace Lutheran Church (705 W. State). Using *Holden Evening Prayer*, the theme will be “The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed,” using a resource from ELCA World Hunger. Each week, we will construct a family-friendly congregational liturgical art project. Dinner will be from 5:00-6:30 pm. Pray and Play, our faith opportunity for toddlers, will continue from 5:45-6:30 pm.

Advent Devotions

LIFT has compiled an Advent devotional resource called *Heaven and Nature Sing: Advent Reflections from LIFT*. People from LIFT congregations have shared their favorite Christmas carols. Paper copies will be available at LIFT congregations, and a digital version will be available at www.liftchurches.org/advent2023.



Breakfast in Bethlehem

To help children and families in our congregations and community better understand the story of Christmas, LIFT will be hosting *Breakfast in Bethlehem* on Saturday, December 9, from 9-11 am at St. John's. This free event will feature storytelling, crafts, carnival-style games, prizes, and breakfast as we learn more about the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. No need to register, but volunteers can sign up at www.liftchurches.org/bethlehem or the code above.

BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM



December 9
9-11 AM
St. John's
Lutheran Church

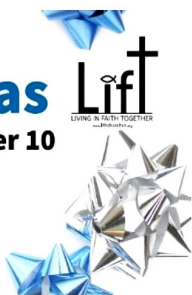
Journey through the
Christmas story in this
carnival-like event,
complete with breakfast.



Blue Christmas

**Sunday, December 10
4 PM**

**St. John's
Lutheran Church
Fremont, OH**



Blue Christmas

LIFT's Blue Christmas worship service offers an opportunity to celebrate the Christmas season, while at the same time recognizing the realities of grief, loss, and separation. This prayerful and contemplative service will be on Sunday, December 10 at 4 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church (212 N. Clover) in Fremont.

December 31 LIFT Worship

On the weekend of New Year's Eve, LIFT will hold a service of Lessons and Carols as we continue in the Christmas season. Gather at Emmanuel Lutheran Church (3557 US-20, Lindsey, OH 44420) on Sunday, December 31 at 10 AM for a time of scripture and congregational singing. The same order of service will be on Saturday, December 30 at Grace Lutheran Church (705 W. State) at 4 PM, during the time of Grace's regular Saturday service.



LIFT Lessons and Carols for the New Year

December 30, 2023
4 PM
Grace Lutheran Church
705 W State
Fremont, OH 43420

December 31, 2023
10 AM
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
3557 US-20
Lindsey, OH 43442

LIFT Youth Headed to New Orleans

Twelve youth and seven adult leaders from LIFT congregations are registered for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans from July 16-20.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in the Great Hymns of Faith choral event on November 5. Thank you to all who have donated to the Backpack Buddies program providing weekend food to kids at Lutz Elementary.



LIFT Epiphany Worship



**January 6, 2024
4:00 PM
Grace Lutheran Church**



DECEMBER 24 10 AM

ST. MARK/EMMANUEL WORSHIP AT ST. MARK

DECEMBER 24 7 PM

ST. MARK/EMMANUEL CANDLELIGHT AT ST. MARK

DECEMBER 30 4 PM

LIFT LESSONS & CAROLS AT GRACE

DECEMBER 31 10 AM

LIFT LESSONS & CAROLS AT EMMANUEL

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 7	Barbara Klohn	1740 Co. Rd. 229
December 7	Linda Wadsworth	1730 Port Clinton Rd., #52
December 9	Richard Burkett	1170 Muskellunge Rd.
December 10	Nancy Laurence	699 Rambo Ln.
December 10	Patricia Gallagher	532 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
December 12	Edwin Lamalie	1519 Co. Rd. 129
December 13	Thomas Antesberger	2621 St. Rt. 412
December 13	Jean Watts	1117 Morrison St.
December 15	Candyce Wingard	2240 E. State St.
December 19	Wilfred Schling	822 Bush St.
December 25	William Armstrong	2124 Martin Ave.
December 26	Judy Overmyer	541 Elizabeth St.

Christmas EVE Volunteers Needed

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING DURING ONE OF THESE SERVICES PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AND TALK TO TRICIA.

5:00 CELEBRATION WORSHIP

- ☐ USHER ☐ GREETER
☐ COMMUNION ASSISTANT
☐ ACOLTYE

9:00 CELEBRATION WORSHIP

- ☐ USHER ☐ GREETER
☐ COMMUNION ASSISTANT
☐ ACOLTYE

THANK YOU'S!

Grace Lutheran Church,
 Thank you for allowing us to set up our popcorn booth in October. Because of your generous support we were able to exceed our goal of \$20,000 in sales. Our final total was \$35,000!
 Thank you, Lauren & Kelsey Wagner - Pack 302

My sincere thanks for the many thoughts & prayers during my recent medical emergency. Both Linda & I are very thankful we were among church friends who jumped in to lend a hand! Very grateful for our church family!

~ Robert Baumer

Happy Anniversary

*To those couples celebrating 50
or more years of wedded bliss!*

December 1, 1962 - Ronald & Helen Jess,
4666 W. Lakeshore Dr. Port Clinton, 43452

December 8, 1962 - Leslie & Marcella Widmer,
725 S. Westfield Dr., Gibsonburg 43431

December 31, 1960 - Gerald & Patricia Gallagher,
532 S. Pennsylvania Ave.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Update on Memorials and Bequests

Dear Fellow Grace Members,

The Executive Committee wanted to provide you with an update on the status of the Memorial Account we established to hold the very generous bequests and undesignated memorials the congregation has received.

In the fall of 2022, we were made aware that Grace would be receiving a large bequest. In order to be good stewards of the funds, we reviewed various options and decided to open a Demand Deposit Marketplace Cash Management Account at Croghan Colonial Bank within their Trust & Investment Management division. The account was opened on April 6, 2023.

This account gives us the safeguards we were looking for while also giving us flexibility to access the funds as the need(s) might arise. The Executive Committee adopted a policy statement for the account at its May 8, 2023 meeting which was shared with the Congregation (attached).

Our first priority was getting the funds into an interest-bearing vehicle that was also fully insured. We achieved that goal. As of the end of October the account has a balance of approximately \$1.4 million*. Our monthly interest earnings have ranged from \$4,700 to \$7,200 per month.

Our next priority is to start having conversations about how these funds should be used, including what portion we might want to use for specific needs/purposes and what portion we might want to continue to invest for future growth.

As we move into these discussions, we would like your thoughts, ideas, and input. To date, nothing has been decided as we knew we wanted to engage the congregation in the conversation. Some of you have mentioned things like expanded mission work, expanded youth outreach and work, an Endowment contribution, etc.

Please consider this update as our request for your ideas and suggestions. We ask that you email or call Linda Baumer, me, or President Jerry Moses via our contact information below. We will collect all suggestions, attempt to prioritize them within the Executive Committee and Council, and bring a recommendation to the congregation for discussion.

Thank you in advance for your thoughts and suggestions. As always, feel free to reach out with any specific questions you might have.

Ruthann House, Treasurer, on behalf of the Executive Committee – Jerry Moses, Connie Amor, Dave Cooper, Pastor Mark

Linda Baumer, 419-332-1558 or gracefremont@yahoo.com

Ruthann House, 419-680-5852 or rahouse@woh.rr.com

Jerry Moses, 419-355-7413 or jmoses66@gmail.com

*Note that this includes \$263,585 transferred in from a Certificate of Deposit that we closed at Key Bank in April to take advantage of the higher interest rate with the CMA (Cash Management Account). We are utilizing some of those funds to cover the cost of the restroom renovations while we await the committed contribution from Endowment and outstanding pledge receipts associated with the Capital Campaign. As of November 1, 2023, outstanding Capital Campaign pledges stand at \$16,400.

Grace Lutheran Church

Croghan Trust & Investment Management – Demand Deposit Marketplace Cash Management Account

Background:

Account opened on April 6, 2023.

Purpose:

An investment vehicle for undesignated bequests, memorials, and/or any other deposits as directed and approved by the Executive Committee.

Interest earned will remain within the account.

Withdrawals and use of funds will require Executive Committee approval.

Account Specifics:

Fact Sheet attached.

Preferred minimum account balance is \$1 million.

Funds are liquid and available daily.

Fees are low.

Funds are FDIC insured.

Interest rate is variable, adjusted on the first day of the month, and established by the market.

Reporting:

Monthly reports will be shared with the Executive Committee and Council as part of the Finance Report.

We encourage your ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to drop in the offering plate or bring/mail to the church office.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

GIVING UPDATE FOR GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FINANCIAL REPORT

AS OF OCTOBER 31

	<u>2023 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2023 BUDGET</u>	<u>2022 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2022 BUDGET</u>
Year to Date Income	\$ 375,557	\$ 383,354		
Year to Date Dedicated Funds Transfer In**	312,446	12,656		
Year to Date Total Income	\$ 688,003	\$ 396,010	\$ 418,876	\$ 412,322
Year to Date Expenses	411,242	423,348		
Year to Date Dedicated Funds Expenses**	312,446	12,656		
Year to Date Total Expenses	\$ 723,688	\$ 436,004	\$ 481,754	\$ 422,037
Year to Date Income Less Expense	\$ -35,685	\$ -39,994	\$ -62,878	\$ -9,715

** Funds released from back page Dedicated Funds

CHURCH COUNCIL - Minutes November 13, 2023

- **Call Committee:** continues to meet. Scheduled a second interview with a candidate, but candidate took another call.
- **Missions/Outreach:** Nov. 16 Grace Gathers at The Garrison; Nov. 18 Funeral Planning; Dec. 2 Ladies Christmas Brunch; Feb. 11, 2024 Family Valentine's party; Bingo coming in the Spring.
- **Worship:** worship plans are underway for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Mid-week Advent worship will be a LIFT service at 6:30. Supper will be served in the dining room from 5-6:30pm; Bookplates for new hymnals are being completed in the office.
- **Property:** Bathroom renovations moving along; Sanctuary portion will be complete by Dec. 1. Parking lot crack sealing is complete in all 3 lots; Estimates on Kitchen lighting are being reviewed; Emergency Response Plan - CPR training in January; Outside light posts and hand railings have been painted.
- **Stewardship:** Stewardship Appeal - we have received approximately 40 cards; cards will continue to be received in the offering plates & mail.
- **Youth/Growth:** Bell Ringing on Dec. 10 from 12-4pm at Kroger; Breakfast in Bethlehem Dec. 9 at St. John's; Lock-In for 5th graders & up Dec.15-16; Christmas Program Dec. 17 at 9am worship. Hoping to sponsor a family for Community Christmas.

**END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY NOON ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2023,
TO BE CREDITED TO YOUR 2023 GIVING.**

Noisy Offering
First Weekend of the Month

BRING YOUR SPARE CHANGE



NOISY OFFERING is received the first weekend of each month. The next collection will be **December 2 & 3**. The Christian Missions/Outreach Committee chooses a mission to receive the Noisy Offering each quarter of the year. Noisy Offering collected in November totaled **\$213.57** and was given to the **LIFT Backpack Buddies Program**. This program provides weekend meals to Lutz students who are experiencing food scarcity. **"THANK YOU"** to everyone who helps make a **JOYFUL NOISE** each month!

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS FINANCIAL HELP FOR MEMBERS? If you could use a little help with rent, a house payment, utilities, medical bills or living expenses, help is available. My Brother's Keeper is a member-to-member ministry found here at Grace. Everything is kept confidential. If you find yourself in need of help in one of the areas mentioned and you are a member of Grace, contact Maureen by calling the church office, 419-332-1558.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Mark Bogen, Intentional Interim
mark@bogen.org
Maureen Pump, Synod Authorized Minister
maureenpump2022@gmail.com
Linda Baumer, Office/Financial Administrator
gracefremont@yahoo.com
Tricia Dabrunz, Secretary/Receptionist
dabrunztricia@yahoo.com
Heather Hawn, Youth Minister
HeatherRHawn@gmail.com
Andrea Hirt, Director Noah's Ark Preschool
noahsark.fremont@gmail.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday - 9:00 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES
IS WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 6, 2023**

**The newsletter will be
assembled on
Thursday, December 14, 2023**



The Church Office will
be closed on
November 23 & 24.

Normal office hours
will resume on
Monday, November 27.
We hope you have
a safe and relaxing
holiday.

Grace Lutheran Church

705 West State Street
Fremont, OH 43420

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Paid
Fremont, OH
Permit #133

SERVING IN WORSHIP: DECEMBER 2023

**PLEASE NOTE: DEACONS & USHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING THEIR OWN REPLACEMENTS.*



DATE	SERVICE	ACOLYTE	GREETER: NARTHEX	GREETER: BAKER ST.	USHERS*	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	DEACONS/CLOSERS*
DECEMBER 2 & 3	4:00	_____	J. JAMES	_____	_____	_____	_____
	9:00	P. RUSSELL	A. OVERMYER	K. OVERMYER	L. MCELFRESH J. AVERS	B. PRASUHN T. SCHLING	C. STAR, S. AUEN
DECEMBER 9 & 10	4:00	_____	V. SEVILLE	_____	_____	_____	_____
	9:00	B. FISHER	C. AMOR	K. BURMEISTER	G. & J. DUPEY	C. BOUCHER, J. OVERMYER	G. JESS, R. COOPER
DECEMBER 16 & 17	4:00	_____	B. SEIBERT	_____	_____	_____	_____
	9:00	T. MICHLES	C. POLTER	D. POLTER	P. PELPHREY K. KLOHN	E. & B. MUFFLER	J. OVERMYER A. FISHER
DECEMBER 23 & 24	4:00	_____	V. SEVILLE	_____	_____	_____	_____
	9:00	M. HAWN	S. WATKINS	M. WIDMER	K. WATKINS J. AVERS	K. & A. OVERMYER	C. BOUCHER S. AUEN
DECEMBER 30	4:00	_____	J. JAMES	_____	_____	_____	_____
JANUARY 6 & 7	4:00	_____	V. SEVILLE	_____	_____	_____	_____
	9:00	_____	D. ZILLES	J. GUTHRIE	L. MCELFRESH S. BURMEISTER	K. WATKINS B. BRADFORD	J. BURMEISTER C. STAR



CHRISTMAS EVE DEACONS

6:00 P.M.: C. AMOR, C. STAR

9:00 P.M.: G. JESS, J. OVERMYER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			2023		1 7:30 Community Christmas Concert with The Toledo Symphony	2 10 - Noon Ladies Christmas Brunch, Dining Room 3:30 - 5:30 LIFT Christmas Posada at Hayes Memorial UMC 4:00 Worship/Communion/ Noisy Offering
3 NOISY OFFERING 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 10:15 Coffee & Refreshments 10:15 Small Groups 10:15 Youth Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:15 Confirmation	4 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 6:30 Dartball at Grace	5 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 11:00 Worship Committee Meeting 1:00 Bible Study via Zoom	6 G & T DEADLINE MID-WEEK ADVENT 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 5:00 Meal 5:45 Pray & Play 6:30 Advent Worship	7 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 11:30 Soup Kitchen 5:30 Missions/Outreach	8	9 9 - 11:00 LIFT Breakfast in Bethlehem at St. John's 4:00 Worship/Communion
10 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 10:15 Coffee & Refreshments 10:15 Small Groups 10:15 Confirmation Noon - 4 Bell Ringing at Kroger 4:00 LIFT Blue Christmas at St. John's	11 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 6:00 2024 Budget Review - Dining Room or Zoom 6:30 Dartball at Grace 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 6:45 Youth Committee - Youth Room 7:30 Church Council	12 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 1:00 Bible Study via Zoom	13 MID-WEEK ADVENT 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 5:00 Meal 5:45 Pray & Play 6:30 Advent Worship	14 G & T ASSEMBLED 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:00 Noah's Ark Christmas Program	15 7:30 pm Youth Lock-In Begins' POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE BY NOON IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.	16 8:00 am Youth Lock-in Ends 4:00 Worship/Communion/Food Pantry Challenge
17 FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE <i>(mashed potato flakes & noodles)</i> 9:00 Worship/Communion/Youth Christmas Program 10:15 Coffee & Refreshments 10:15 Confirmation	18 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 6:00 Grief Support - Lounge 6:30 Dartball at Grace	19 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 1:00 Bible Study via Zoom 2:30 Joy Circle	20 MID-WEEK ADVENT 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 5:00 Meal 5:45 Pray & Play 6:30 Advent Worship	21 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:00 Grace Gathers at the Chateau Vineyard and Winery	22	23 4:00 Worship/Communion
24 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 Worship/Communion 9:00 Worship/Communion 31 10:00 LIFT Lessons & Carols worship at Emmanuel Lutheran Church	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27	28	29 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS DUE BY NOON.	30 4:00 LIFT Lessons & Carols worship at Grace