Grace & Truth

Grace Lutheran Church Fremont, Ohio January 2024

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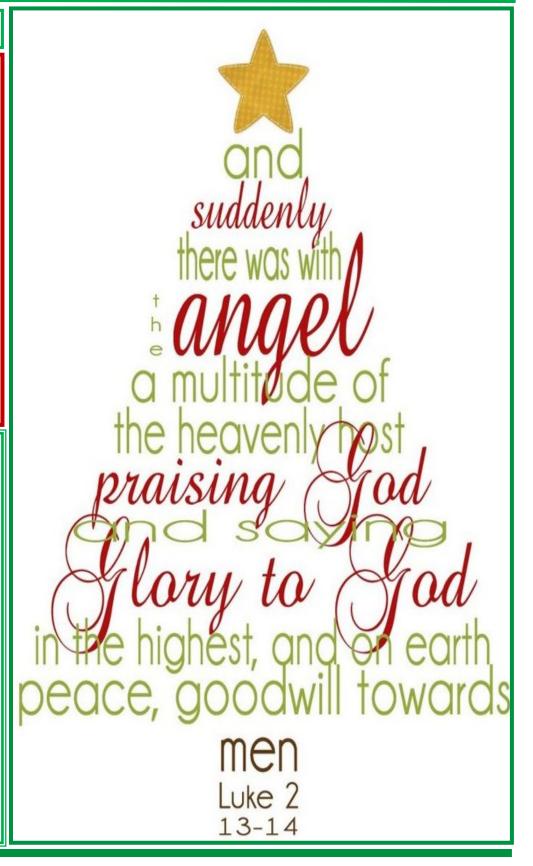
Joy and Blessings to

You All during this

Christmas Season

and throughout the

New Year!



Dear Grace Lutheran Church Family,

Many thanks for supporting our Community Christmas Concert with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra. The enthusiasm for our event was reflected in tickets being sold out 10 days before the concert!

Special thanks to our Council President, Jerry Moses and the Property Committee, our custodian, Jim Post and his assistants, our local contractors, for having the new bathrooms installed and available (5 hours before!!) in time for the concert. Adjustments were also made to seating in the balcony and rear of the sanctuary, which will serve us well into the future. Thanks to Heather Hawn for managing the sound system for the evening.

How glorious and inspiring it was to hear and experience the music of Christmas resounding in our beautiful sanctuary. The conductor, Steven Jarvi, was humorous, animated, and very entertaining. The program of music was outstanding, including the always popular sing-a-long. It was truly an evening of fellowship for our community and a great beginning as we prepare for the Advent of Our Lord.

Mark your calendars and save the date: the symphony will return next year on Friday, December 6, 2024.

Many thanks for allowing us to share this most inspirational event.

Yours in Christ, The Symphony Committee Janet Dorr, Chairman

John Avers, Linda Baumer, Peggy Kiser, Mary Nossaman, Carol Polter, Dan Polter, Jim Post, Charlotte Urban, Lynn Urban





A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARK

Well, here we are again - the third time that I am bringing a January Pastor's Message in Grace & Truth as your interim pastor. I have greatly enjoyed my time here at Grace and with all of you, but, yes, I am the interim, and the focus these past months has been on the hope of calling the person who will be your next pastor. There have been glimmers of that hope from the Call Committee, but, so far, the waiting continues.

So, how should we look forward to 2024? Whether a new pastor is called or not, there will be other significant changes at Grace. I plan to join Marcy in retirement in May (of course, sooner, if a new pastor is installed by then). Doug, our Financial Assistant, plans to retire in April. We continue the search for the person or persons who will continue the tradition of music excellence at Grace.

When we are surrounded by changes and transitions, it's honestly hard to know what to expect or hope for. With that in mind, let me offer four New Year's Truths that embrace the uncertainties of this time.

New Year's Truth #1: **God's power is made perfect in weakness.** This was the message Paul said he received from the Lord in Second Corinthians 12. We hope 2024 will be a great year filled with good news and smooth transitions, but if it's not, we can still rejoice knowing God's power never fails. Some additional words from the Lord to Paul and also to us: "My grace is sufficient."

New Year's Truth #2: **We can learn to be content in every situation.** Grace is not alone in its wait to find a new pastor. In a supply and demand situation, demand is high, and supply is low. Many congregations are considering and implementing alternate models of ministry. A different model for pastoral leadership may be needed at Grace. Paul's words from Philippians 4 speak words of encouragement: "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances... I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

New Year's Truth #3: **God provides the peace that passes understanding.** Times of transition, change, and an uncertain future engender anxiety in us as individuals and communities. God speaks truth to us, again through Paul in Philippians, chapter 4: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

New Year's Truth #4: **As we live out our lives on earth, God calls us to set our hearts on things above.** Paul puts it this way in Colossians 3, the text which was our 2nd reading last April 9 on Easter Sunday: "Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." One commenter on this text helps explain what this means: "Having the mind set on 'things above' is no escape from the tasks and struggles of this earth. It's rather having the Star of Bethlehem to orient one's journey."

Yes, we have recently followed the Star of Bethlehem that has led us to the Christ Child. So let's keep moving in this direction, and living these New Year's Truths throughout The Year of our Lord 2024.

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. On January 8 & 9, 2024 these groups will begin a study called *Women Like Us*. Contact Maureen for the Zoom link by emailing her at maureen-pump2022@gmail.com

GRACE GATHERS will meet on January 18 at 6 pm at Hall's Wine R We, Clyde. 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 maureen-pump2022@gmail.com

JUGGLING ACT

Family, career, social life, taking are 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 January 23, 2024. If you plan to attend please call the church office, 419-332-1558. Hope to see you there!

BOOKWORMS will meet on January 22, 2024 at 2 pm to discuss The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, by Daniel James Brown. 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 January 23 at 11 am.

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.

S.L.A.M (Scripture Life And Me) with Maureen meets Wednesdays at 6 pm in the large Sunday School room (across from the elevator). This fall we will be looking a Prayer Practices. There are many ways to pray and we will practice several different types of prayer.

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 *January 15, 2024 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

FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE

Bring your donations to worship on January 20 & 21. This month we will collect canned soup or fruit and crackers. Please place your donations in the grocery carts that are located in the Narthex and by the Baker Street entrance.

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.





YOUTH COMMITTEE will meet on January 8 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.



INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE will now meet in the Sunday school hallway from 5:45 - 6:30 pm.

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.

Learning? Youth & Children Small Groups | January 2024

Kids Zone

Grades 1-5 | During Sunday Worship

Jesus Calls the Disciples Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man Jesus Feeds the 5000 Jesus' Appearance is Changed

Children's Message

During 9a Worship

Baptism of the Lord Following the Leader God Calls Samuel Jesus' Love is Stronger

Save the Date!

Pre-K - 5th Grade | February 10, 2024

A Royal Adventure Princess Camp & God's Army Boot Camp 9:30 am - 11 am Both events will be hosted at the same time. Pick your favorite and join us for a morning of crafts and activities. **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

ELCA Youth & Young Adult Gathering will be held in New Orleans July 16 - 20, 2024. Youth that have registered to attend the Gathering we will

begin to meet on the second Sunday of each month to prepare for this trip. Our next meeting will be *January 14* from 1 - 3 pm at St. John's. For more information about this event visit https://www.elca.church/gathering or contact HeatherRHawn@gmail.com.

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 Heather-RHawn@gmail.com

Confirmation

7th & 8th Graders | 10:15 am Youth Room

Bible BasicsPreschool - K | During Sunday Worship

Jan 1st- Apostles' Creed Article 1

Jesus is Baptized David & Goliath Hannah & Samuel Daniel

*The Confirmation retreat has been moved to the weekend of President's Day in Bowling Green

Young Samaritans

Middle & High School January 14th | 10:15 am Youth Room

Great Conversations Begin & Carry on Conversations

Wondering with the Lost Sheep Luke 15:4-7

Community Building

Middle & High School January 28th | 10:15 am Youth Room

Socks for the Homeless *please bring a bag of men's socks

Bricks & Books

Middle & High School 1st & 2nd Sundays | During Sunday Worship

Help us build a scene for one of the upcoming Bible stories or explore our library and leave a review of a book for a special prize.

*Book reviews may be featured online or in the G&T

News from the Ark

The year has been going by so fast, but it has been a lot of fun, so far. The children have been loving all the different things we've been doing to our different centers. The grocery store is by far their favorite. We will be changing dramatic play to a post office when we have Mail Man Sonny come in to read his book in sometime in January. We will continue to practice names, writing letters, as well as continue to focus on social emotional behaviors. Letter K was Kindness week, we had the children



draw pictures for people in nursing homes to put a smile on their faces during the holiday! We also did an experiment with a paper heart, toothpaste, and a spoon. We talked about how kind and unkind words stay in your heart, even when you apologize, they never fully go away. We put a dab of toothpaste on the paper heart and we said something nice and something mean. When they tried to scoop it away with the spoon there was still a smudge left. It was a nice visual for them to understand how words, whether nice or mean, stay in your heart. ♥ We also had 3 Kittens from the Hirt farm join us for show and tell! The kids really enjoyed them and want to know when they are coming back. We are also looking for substitute teachers if anyone is interested please contact us.

Thanks for your continued support of the preschool!

Andrea Hirt, Administrator

LIFT NEWS: JANUARY '24

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.



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



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

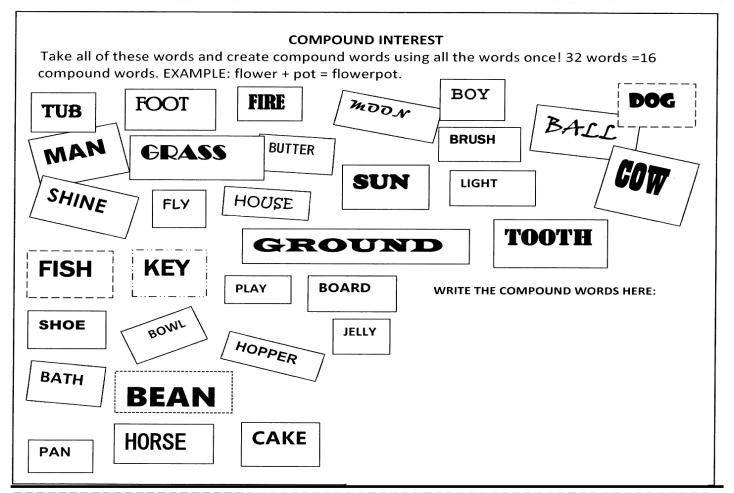
LIFT LESSONS & CAROLS AT EMMANUEL

LIFT Epiphany Worship



January 6, 2024 4:00 PM Grace Lutheran Church

JUST 4 FUN



FIVE & FOUR

Directions: Each line contains a five-letter word and a four-letter word whose letters have been mixed, but the left-to-right order has not been changed. Unmix the two words on each line and write them in the spaces provided. When you're done, unscramble the boxed and circled letters to reveal the mystery word. A clue is provided. We've also given you a head start.

SHADELTED =	S H A \square T +	D E E O
PATGAXIAN =	🗆 _	O
VIPASETAW =		O
NOVALUNID =		O
Clue: A pilot's friend —	0000	

doghouse, fireman, fishbowl, toothbrush football, sunshine (C sunlight), moonlight (moonshine keyboard, cowboy, playground horseshoe, bathtub, jellybean. butterfly grasshoppe pancake
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VEI Five	0 di ' . ' . '	
S: C	gai sta sta sta sta sta sta sta sta sta sta	
A C & Share	pag tax tax pag vie val nou A p frie TAI	

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

48		
January 1	Joyce Wickert	2375 McGormley Rd.
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 18	Sharon Watkins	1547 Emmett Dr.
January 19	Beverly Bradford	1328 Circle Dr.
January 21	Ronald Gierhart	1510 Napoleon St.
January 25	Margaret McGue	1545 Buckland Ave.
January 25	Marleen Savage	136 Briarwood Circle
January 25	Leslie Widmer	725 S. Westfield Dr., Gibsonburg
January 26	Timothy Hart	122 Briarwood Circle
January 30	Patricia Rife	5212 St. Rt. 101, Clyde
i		-

Happy Anniversary

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

December 28, 1973 - Robert & Janet Dorr, 1799 Port Clinton Road

December 30, 1972 -

William & Linda Armstrong, 2124 Martin Ave.

January 6, 1973 - Bill & Ruth Auxter, 112 Briarwood Circle

January 29, 1971 - Gary & Louise Saam, 6485 E. Harbor Rd., Unit #34 Marblehead. Ohio



NOISY OFFERING is

received the first weekend of each month. The next collection will be

January 6 & 7. The Christian Missions/

Outreach Committee chooses a mission to receive the Noisy Offering each quarter of the year. The committee has decided that your gifts for the first quarter will be given to support camperships to enable children from our congregation to go to summer camp. Noisy Offering collected in December totaled \$195.19 and was given to the LIFT Backpack Buddies Program.

"THANK YOU" to everyone who helps make a JOYFUL NOISE each month!

FINANCIAL REPORT				
AS OF NOVEMBER 30	2023 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET
Year to Date Income	\$415,279	\$ 408,372		
Year to Date Dedicated Funds Transfer In**	312,931	<u>13,177</u>		5000
Year to Date Total Income	\$728,210	\$ 421,549	\$ 450,712	\$ 444,790
Year to Date Expenses	465,865	471,663		
Year to Date Dedicated Funds Expenses**	312,931	13,177		
Year to Date Total Expenses	\$778,796	\$ 484,840	\$ 530,54 <u>5</u>	<u>\$ 470,469</u>
Year to Date Income Less Expense	\$ -50,586	\$ -63,291	\$ -79,833	\$ -25,679
				98:

^{**} Funds released from back page Dedicated Funds

CHURCH COUNCIL - Minutes December 11, 2023

- **Budget Hearing** took place on Zoom and in-person in the Lounge. Review and discussion was held. This budget will be presented for approval at the upcoming Annual Meeting (Feb. 5, 2024).
- Call Committee: Committee interviewed a candidate on December 7; hope to schedule a second interview.
- **Missions/Outreach**: first quarter Noisy Offering collections will be given to support youth camperships; upcoming dates Jan. 18 Grace Gathers; Feb. 11 Family Valentine's party; Bingo, date to be determined.
- Worship: mid-week LIFT Advent services continue; working on "special music" for Christmas Eve; Bookplates for the new hymnals are complete; a group of volunteers will place these in the hymnals; December 31 worship will be a LIFT service of "Lessons and Carols" at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- **Property:** Thank you to Jerry Moses for his efforts with the bathroom renovation project; will use snow removal services from Dave Rohrbacher; CPR class scheduled for January 27
- **Stewardship:** Stewardship Appeal Thank You letters sent to those who returned intent cards; cards continue to come in; did not get the increase we had hoped for.
- Youth/Growth: Sunday School will continue during worship; approximately 50 people (25 youth) attended Breakfast in Bethlehem; 4 families participated in Bell Ringing; Heather to attend youth conference in New Orleans Jan. 18-21, 2024; acolyte participation going well
- THANK YOU to Greg and Jody Jess for decorating the Christmas tree in the sanctuary!

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.



Would you like to learn CPR, or do you need a refresher? We are offering an opportunity for anyone interested, on Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church Dining Room. This class will be taught by Adam Shearn who is a member of the Fremont Fire Department and an accredited teacher at Vanguard Vocational Center. Lunch will be served and there will be a \$10 fee to cover the cost of your card. Anyone wanting to take advantage of this life saving class must register by Monday, January 22, at 419-332-1558.

Questions? Contact John Burmeister at 419-307-2462

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 Heather RHawn@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,
JANUARY 17, 2024

The newsletter will be assembled on Thursday, January 25, 2024

The Church Office will be closed on December 25 & 26, 2023 and January 1, 2024



Normal office hours will resume on Wednesday, December 27, 2023 and Tuesday, January 2, 2024. 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: JANUARY 2024

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

DATE	SERVICE	ACOLYTE	GREETER: NARTHEX	GREETER: BAKER ST.	USHERS	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	DEACONS/CLOSERS
	4:00		V. SEVILLE				
JANUARY 6 & 7	9:00	R. Hawn	D. ZILLES	J. GUTHRI€	L. MCELFRESH S. Burmeister	K. Watkins B. Bradford	J. Burmeister C. Star
	4:00		J. Jam€s			_	
JANUARY 13 & 14	9:00	M. Moss	L. Baumer	R. Baum€r	V. OHMS K. OVERMYER	A. & B. FISHER	s. Auen C. Amor
	4:00		V. SEVILLE				
JANUARY 20 & 21	9:00	K. MICHLES	C. Amor	K. Burmeister	P. Pelphrey R. Haynes	K. & A. Overmyer	C. Boucher A. Fisher
	4:00		J. Jam€s				
JANUARY 27 & 28	9:00	C. Wagner	L. HALM	J. Gangwer	T. SCHLING S. KELLER	C. Boucher B. Prasuhn	J. OVERMYER R. COOPER
FEBRUARY 3 & 4	4:00		V. SEVILLE				
	9:00	T. MICHLES	R. Coop€r	D. COOP€R	J. AVERS S. Burmeister	K. Watkins J. Overmyer	J. JESS C. Star

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2024	OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4 11:30 Soup Kitchen	5	6 4:00 LIFT Epiphany Worship/ Communio n/ Noisy Offering
NOISY OFFERING 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 10:15 Confirmation	8 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 6:30 Dartball at Grace 6:30 Executive Board Meeting 6:45 Youth Committee - Youth Room 7:30 Church Council	9 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 11:00 Worship Committee Meeting 1:00 Bible Study via Zoom	8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe SPIRIT RESUMES 5:00 Meal 5:45 Instruments of Peace 5:45 Pray & Play 6:00 SLAM 6:00 Bible Study with Pr. Mark	8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 11:30 Soup Kitchen	12	4:00 Worship/Communion
9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 10:15 Confirmation 1 - 3:00 Youth Gathering Meeting at St. John's	8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 10:00 MLK Jr Breakfast - NAACP 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 6:00 - Grief Group - Lounge 6:30 Dartball at Oak Harbor	8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 1:00 Bible Study via Zoom	G & T DEADLINE 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 5:00 Meal 5:45 Instruments of Peace 5:45 Pray & Play 6:00 SLAM 6:00 LWR Quilts 6:00 Bible Study with Pr. Mark	8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:00 Grace Gathers at Hall's Wine R We, Clyde	19	4:00 Worship/Communion/Food Pantry Challenge
FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE (mashed potato flakes & noodles) 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 10:15 Confirmation 12:30 LIFT Board Meeting at St. John's	8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 2:00 Bookworms - Lounge 5:30 Endowment Meeting 6:30 Dartball at Grace	8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 11:00 Virtual Bookworms, Zoom 1:00 Bible Study via Zoom 5:30 Juggling Act - The Garrison	8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 5:00 Meal 5:45 Instruments of Peace 5:45 Pray & Play 6:00 SLAM 6:00 Bible Study with Pr. Mark	G & T ASSEMBLED 8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 11:30 Soup Kitchen	26	27 10 - 2:00 CPR Training - Dining Room 4:00 Worship/Communion
9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 10:15 Confirmation	8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 1:00 Bible Study - Lounge 6:30 Dartball at Grace	8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 1:00 Bible Study via Zoom	8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe 5:00 Meal 5:45 Instruments of Peace 5:45 Pray & Play 6:00 SLAM 6:00 Bible Study with Pr. Mark			