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# Contact Us...

#### Grace Lutheran Church 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 Dear Grace Lutheran Church Family,

ha

What a special night! The Toledo Symphony Orchestra returned and presented another outstanding Christmas Concert.

A special surprise was the conductor for the concert's encore presentation. Nine-year-old Charlotte Hagemeyer, daughter of Kari and Jeremy Hagemeyer and granddaughter of John and Nancy Burmeister, was chosen from the audience by the symphony's conductor to lead the symphony in their presentation of *Sleigh Ride*. Charlotte was such a delight and so professional, that she received a standing ovation from the audience!

*Mark your calendars*, The Toledo Symphony Orchestra will return next year on *Friday*, *December 5, 2025*.

Thank you for your continued support of this concert!

The Symphony Committee Janet Dorr, Chairman

John Avers Mary Nossaman

Linda Baumer Carol Polter Jan Harris Dan Polter Peggy Kiser Jim Post

Lynn Urban





One of the many familiar words that we may hear in the midst of celebrating this Christmas comes to us from the first chapter of St. John. I pray you know them well, yet I'll share them with you if you don't:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Depending on when you are reading your Grace & Truth it is either late in December or early January. As you are reading, the day of Christmas may be so close that the anticipation is still building, or it may have just passed, and the New Year's Ball is soon to drop. You may even be reading this as January of 2025 has settled upon us and all of the joys, chaos, and fun of Christmas and New Year's may be behind us. Regardless of when you are reading, the image of light and life is rich within the life of faith in these holy and precious days.

As Advent draws to a close, light and life are evident as the circle of light continues to grow on the Advent wreath. Light and life are also present as the days are officially growing longer. It may be cold, gray, and ugly, but the days will be longer. Even if it is only a few seconds each day, eventually the life of Spring will burst forth once again.

As we gather to celebrate Christ's Birth, light and life are evident. Light bursts forth as the shepherds' sleep under the star lit sky. Brilliance is everywhere as the angels descend, lighting up the night sky with a heavenly glow and a song that sounds just as bright. Then of course, life abounds as Mary gives birth and we welcome our Newborn King!

Moving into January, we will celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. Here again light and life abounds! The Magi follow the star on their faith filled journey. The star casts a glow that beams upon the home of the Holy Family. Even in the darkness of Herod's greed and deceit, light, and life shine through as Mary, Joseph, and young Jesus flee to Egypt.

Light and life are a part of our faith story! They always have been! They always will be! As we celebrate the light and life of this Holy Season and well into the New Year, how will you shine with the light of Christ that dwells within you? How will you live the life God intended? I pray that it may be with the same joy, love, and enthusiasm that many of us share throughout these blessed days!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Pasta Briley

#### **PASTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TOGETHER LET US TAKE TIME TO LISTEN!** Every year Bishop Beaudoin sets a theme for the Synod to ponder. The theme for 2025 has been designated as the "Year of Listening". How fitting is that as we continue to grow together as pastor and people! Beginning *January* 12 after worship, you are invited to what I'd like to call "Listening with a Second Ear." This will be our chance to "chat." Together we can gather to share our joys, sorrows, concerns, celebrations, ideas, and dreams. It will be a chance to ask questions and listen to each other as we grow into the future. Beyond the 12, we will stive to sit down on the second Sunday of each month and do the same. Hence the reason "second" ear. But of course, there is more to it than that, "Listening with a Second Ear" allows us time to reflect and ponder before quickly responding. My prayer is that we can use this time to do the same. *See you on January* 12, 2025!

THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE! Many of Luther's reflections within the Small Catechism end with those bold words, "This is most certainly true!" What is most certainly true? One answer may be that many of us have probably forgotten what we learned in our confirmation studies. Come and explore Luther's Small Catechism with Pastor Bailey following worship beginning on Sunday, January 19, 2025. We'll either meet in the SLAM classroom or in the Auditorium as we re-open our minds to Luther's understanding of the Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, and all the rest that Luther had to share in the Small Catechism. Beyond the 19, we'll strive to gather on the first and third Sunday of the month.

# SEEKING WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

DID YOU KNOW THAT WORSHIP IS MEANT TO BE AN EXPRESSION OF GOD'S PEOPLE, LED BY GOD'S PEOPLE? While we all enjoy gathering for worship on Saturday and Sunday, Pastor Bailey would love to include YOU as a worship leader. Would you prayerfully consider being a voice of hope for our world and congregation as a worship leader? Your voice would help lead our call to worship, prayers, and other areas of our time together in worship. If you are interested or would like to know more, please call Pastor or drop him an email (pastorcbailey@gmail.com).

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

Throughout the month of November. our Stewardship Team challenged us to ponder how we have been "Found to be Faithful." As we move into the New Year, each of them wanted to share your "post-it" note thoughts with you.

John Avers shared: 42 Post-It notes were shared during our first week, where we reflected on the many ways we are currently serving this congregation and/or community. Within the congregation, some of these responses included serving as a Greeter, Usher, Reader, Altar Guild Member, Communion Assistant, and Sunday School Aide. Others mentioned financial support, volunteering to serve on Church Council, assisting with Funeral Dinners and Project Day activities.

Other responses which serve the congregation, and the community included donating to or volunteering at the Food Pantry, Bridge of Hope, Soup Kitchen, and Care and Share.

All in all, it looks like we have a good number of people serving the congregation but there is always more work to be done in the community we are called to serve.

Cecelia Boucher wrote: Many times, we think our small gestures of kindness won't matter, let alone make a difference. "Little is always much" in the hands of Christ. It was quite humbling to read the many ways this congregation reaches out to one another and beyond into the community. Although we'd love to list every one of your posts, a few seemed to consistently resurface.

Smile . . . be kind . . . listen . . . send notes or texts, open doors for others, visit the homebound and nursing homes, donate to causes, and cross the aisle at worship to Share the Peace! Each and every post was treasured and important! Continue to be the light of Christ in YOUR own special way!

Kathy Burmeister shared: We are called to be faithful with much abundance. Living in the United States. we take many things for granted. Your post-its showed ways we can appreciate what we have.

These are some of the good ideas that were written. We can share our time, talents and means. We should make use of the gifts that have been given to us. We can mentor the next generations and be good examples.

Someone wrote that we should pray on a daily basis and attend church services. That is the perfect way to give thanks for what we have.

Ed Muffler wrote: STEWARDSHIP......a journey.....not a destination!!

Each season we present a campaign to encourage all to consider their journey and to listen prayerfully to where the SPIRIT is calling/inspiring us to grow. In the final week we asked the question: In what NEW ways is God calling you to be generous? Common themes on the Post-it notes included: More, Share, Love, Thankful, Grow, Serve, Grace, Help, God's Calling, Uplifting, Open, Unexpected, Participate......ALL inspiring words of action!

If you participated in our Post-It note challenge THANK YOU for your feedback and as always....THANK YOU ALL for your continued generosity and prayers!!!!

THE BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS OUR HELP! On January 4 & 5 we will receive donations for the Bridge of Hope Food Pantry at Hayes Memorial UMC. They are in need of the following items: breakfast cereals, canned meats, rice, dried pinto beans, cans of tomato sauce, pasta, paper towels and diapers. These gifts may be placed in the grocery carts located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you for your help!

MAUREEN'S MONDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will returns on *January 6 at 1 pm* in the lounge. This winter we will be looking at the book of Philippians. All women are invited!

MAUREEN'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT SLAM GROUP will return from their break on *January 8 at 5 pm* in the lounge. We will begin a study called Being a Disciple: Counting the Real Cost! Anyone interested is welcome to attend!

**GRACE GATHERS** is a fellowship group that meets monthly. The next gathering will be on **January 16** at 6 pm. We will meet at the Chateau Vineyard and Winery in Helena. Please call the church office if you plan to attend.

#### SPEND YOUR VALENTINE'S DAY WITH US!

The Let's Build Beds team will be offering a delicious Valentine's Day Dinner here at Grace on *Friday, February 14, 2025 at 6pm!* This is a fundraiser for the Let's Build Beds event that we have scheduled later this year Our goal is to raise \$10,000, which will allow us to build 50 beds for children in our community who are currently without a bed of their own.

The meal will include: lasagna, salad, bread, dessert, wine, pop and coffee. Tickets are \$40 for one person or \$75 per couple. This event will also feature raffle baskets and a 50/50 drawing.

Tickets will go on sale after the first of the year but mark your calendar now! Come celebrate Valentine's Day with us and help us raise funds to build beds for children in our community.

#### FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE

Bring your donations to worship on *January 18 & 19.* This month we will collect canned soup or fruit and crackers. A special thank you to Jan Harris for taking our gifts to the Sandusky County Food Pantry

each month.



Please place your donations in the grocery carts that are located in the Narthex and by the Baker Street entrance. At the request of the food pantry no glass jars.

**SPOUSAL GRIEF SUPPORT** will meet on *January 20 at 6 pm* in the lounge. During this time we share a devotion, prayer and mutual support through discussion. Questions? Call the church office.

**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 January 28. If you plan to attend please call the church office, 419-332-1558.

## LET'S BUILD BEDS IS COMING!

When? September 13, 2025

Who is participating? LIFT Congregations: Grace, Hayes Memorial UMC, St. John's, St. Mark and Trinity UMC

When can we volunteer or donate? Now! Just let Maureen know.

Who will get the beds? Children in our area who do not currently have a bed to sleep on. Do you know someone who needs a bed for their child? Let Maureen know.

More information coming soon!



**HEY KIDS!** Kids Zone is for youth in Pre-K through 5th grade and meets during worship. Children are excused following the Children's Message and will return before communion. This year our teachers will be Cornelia Star and Penny Russell.



Parents and youth are welcome! We will begin planning for Lent and spring. Dinner will be provided.



THANK YOU to everyone who helped make Christmas possible for the Community Christmas family that we adopted.

Heather Hawn

MANY THANKS to all the youth who helped with the Christmas Program. You did a fantastic job! Olivia Michles, Riley Hawn, Carter Wagner, Kelsey Wagner, Eliza Prescott, Camden Brown, Karlie Rollins, Lauren Wagner, Kaden Moss, Baily Rollins, Zennon Rollins, Clyde Rivera, Oliver Prescott, P. J. Russell, Pam Russell, Kamdyn Rollins, Greg Schalk, Kayden Michles, and Brayden Michles.

Heather Hawn

**ACOLYTES** at Grace serve during the 9 am Sunday worship. We encourage acolytes to sign up at least every other month and dates are available through February. You may sign up using the QR



SERVICE

code in this announcement. Acolytes that do not sign up will be assigned a weekend.



**CONFIRMATION CLASS** will meet on Sunday, January 5 from noon - 1 pm at Grace and we have a retreat set for Saturday, January 18 from 10 am - 5 pm at Grace.

JAN22

**CRAFT & CROP ~ Crafting for a Cause!** Fundraiser for the Soup Kitchen

#### January 11, 2025 9 am - 6 pm Grace Lutheran Church 705 W. State St., Fremont, Ohio Cost \$15 per person

100% of your table fee goes to support the Soup Kitchen. All crafters are welcome. Please enter at the Baker & Wood Street doors, cross the sanctuary to use the stairs or elevator to get to the auditorium. (Elevator access is closed from 3:30 - 5 pm during worship.) Bring your lunch or run out to pick something up. Payment is due the day of the event. Questions? Contact Heather Hawn by email at HeatherRHawn@gmail.com or by calling 419-307-1808.

## The latest from Noah's Ark...

I can't believe we are heading into January already. I guess time flies when you are having fun! Our Christmas program was on December 12, and the kids practiced so hard on their songs. We loved every minute of it! Our Christmas break runs December 21 through January 5. We hope all of our wonderful families have a blessed holiday break. We will take



this time off to spend with our family and friends and cherish the joy we have for one another. But we want everyone to remember the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ and the celebration of God's love for all! This is a great time to pause and give thanks for the love, hope and joy found in Jesus. I hope everyone has a blessed new year!

> Thank you, Andrea Hirt, Director Noah's Ark Preschool









# **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

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

January 1	Joyce Wickert
January 2	Ardis Curliss
January 4	Gary Willey
January 6	Janice Serwin
January 8	Gregg Kinsey
January 9	Carole Miller
January 18	Sharon Watkins
January 19	Beverly Bradford
January 21	Ronald Gierhart
January 25	Margaret McGue
January 25	Marlene Savage
January 25	Leslie Widmer
January 30	Patricia Rife

2375 McGormley Rd 720 Tucker Rd. 2737 N. River Rd. 1997 E. State Street 2019 Elm Dr. 1830 Port Clinton Rd. 1547 Emmett Dr. 1328 Circle Dr. 1510 Napoleon St. 1545 Buckland Ave. 136 Briarwood Circle 725 S. Westfield Dr., Gibsonburg 43431 5212 St. Rt. 101, Clyde 43410

Happy Anniversary

Celebrating 50 or more years of wedded bliss!

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

Newlyweds

December 7 -David & Meghan (Reed) King

**Wíth Sympathy** Marjorie Tanvas



**REMINDER:** То 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

(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.)

BRONDOS MISSIONARY NEWS - Keep up with the latest news from our missionary, Pr. David Brondos by visiting www.sites.google.com/site/ dbrondos or via email at david.brondos@elca.org

The family of Al Stokes would like to thank our church family, and especially Pastor Bailey, for their support at the time of Dad's death. We appreciate Pastor Bailey's visits with Day, his support of us, and the perfect caring message he shared during the funeral. Also, thanks to Bill Smith for bringing the altar flowers to Dad. A special thank you also goes out to the women who served the funeral luncheon, and to the church staff who printed the bulletins and handled the details of the service and luncheon.

Al's kids - Georgia, Becky & Will

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 30	2024 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL				
Year to Date Total Income	\$531,791	\$442,919	\$728,210				
Year to Date Total Expenses	<u>\$556,126</u>	<u>\$497,895</u>	<u>\$778,796</u>				
Year to Date Income Less Expense	\$ -24,335	\$ -54,976	\$-50,586				
Dedicated Funds transferred in to cover project expenses: \$140,134							

#### CHURCH COUNCIL - Minutes December 9, 2024

- Proposed 2025 Budget presented to council; Budget Hearing will be held Monday, January 13, 2025 at 5:30pm in person and via ZOOM.
- Annual Report time committee/staff reports due to Linda by December 23. ANNUAL MEETING will be held Sunday, February 2, 2025.
- GLC Constitution further review needed prior to congregation approval.
- Approved bid from Advance Plumbing for replacement of 75 gal. water heater
- **MISSIONS/OUTREACH**: Valentine's Dinner for Build Beds fundraiser is Friday, February 14 at 6pm. This event will be publicized in the Town Money Saver. Tickets will go on sale Jan. 6 Feb. 7, 2025.
- WORSHIP: Christmas Eve services 4pm Youth & Family Service; 9pm Traditional service candlelight & communion at both services; no Saturday worship on Dec. 28; Lessons & Carols LIFT combined service will be Sunday, Dec. 29 at 10AM at Trinity United Methodist Church on Wayne St.; Beginning January 2025, Worship Committee will meet on first-Wednesdays at 2:30pm
- **PROPERTY:** continue overseeing & working on various building projects; Security System proposal from RSS was presented and approved, project will move forward.
- **STEWARDSHIP:** Stewardship campaign update reviewed sticky notes, committee members will compile a statement; Intent Cards continue to come in to the office.
- YOUTH: working on youth event ideas for January; Grace has 4 kids in confirmation class this year; Craft & Crop fundraisers for the Soup Kitchen have been scheduled; November Craft & Crop brought in \$125



### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

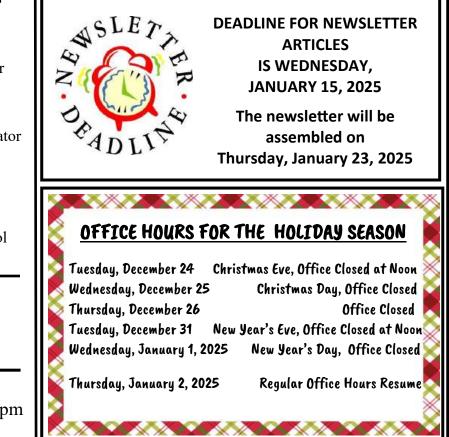
Pastor Clayton J. Bailey, Senior Pastor pastorcbailey@gmail.com Maureen Pump, Synod Authorized Minister maureenpump2022@gmail.com Nathan Leonard, Organist/Choir Director nateykeys@gmail.com Linda Baumer, Office/Financial Administrator gracefremont@yahoo.com Tricia Dabrunz, Secretary/Receptionist dabrunztricia@yahoo.com 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



Grace Lutheran Church 705 West State Street Fremont, OH 43420

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Paid Fremont, OH Permit #133

# **SERVING IN WORSHIP: JANUARY 2025**

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

DATE	SERVICE	ACOLYTE	GREETER: NARTHEX	GREETER: BAKER STREET	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	DEACONS/ Closers
JANUARY 4 & 5	4:00		V. SEVILLE			
	9:00	t. Michles	J. AVERS K. BURMEISTER	L. & M. WIDMER	G. & J. JESS	R. COOPER C. AMOR
JANUARY 11 & 12	4:00		T. O'BRIEN			
	9:00	C. WAGNER	K. & A. Overmyer	J. GANGWER	B. BRADFORD J. OVERMYER	J. BURMEISTER A. FISHER
JANUARY 18 & 19	4:00	;	T. O'BRIEN			
	9:00	R. HAWN	L. & B. Mcelfresh	L. & J. Overmyer	C. BOUCHER S. BRICKNER	G. JESS P. KISER
JANUARY 25 & 26	4:00		T. O'BRIEN			
	9:00	K. MOSS	R. HAYNES V. DHMS	D. & C. Polter	K. & A. Overmyer	J. LETZRING C. STAR
FEBRUARY 1 & 2	4:00		T. O'BRIEN			<u> </u>
	9:00	O. MICHLES	J. GUTHRIE L. HALM	D. ZILLES	B. PRASUHN K. WATKINS	t. Michles R. Cooper

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Newsyears OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4 4:00 Worship/Communion/ Noisy Offering/Bridge of Hope Food Pantry Collection
5 NOISY OFFERING/ BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone Noon - 1:00 Confirmation at Grace	6 9:00 Project Day 1:00 Women's Bible Study with Maureen 7:00 Dartball at Grace	7 1:00 Bible Study - Online	8 2:30 Worship Committee - Lounge 5:00 S.L.A.M. with Maureen - Lounge 5:30 Youth Committee Meeting 6:00 Kids Club 6:30 Chancel Choir	9 11:30 Soup Kitchen	10	11 9 - 6:00 pm Craft & Crop, Auditorium 4:00 Worship/Communion
12 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 10:00 Listening with a Second Ear with Pr. Bailey	13 1:00 Women's Bible Study with Maureen 5:30 Budget Hearing 6:00 Executive Board Meeting 7:00 Dartball at St. John's 7:30 Church Council	14 11:30 - 1:00 Office Closed - Staff Development 1:00 Bible Study - Online	15 G & T DEADLINE 5:00 S.L.A.M. with Maureen - Lounge 6:00 Kids Club 6:30 Chancel Choir	16 11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:00 Grace Gathers at the Chateau Vineyard and Winery, Helena	17	18 10 - 5:00 Confirmation Retreat at Grace 4:00 Worship/Communion/Food Pantry Challenge
19 FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE (canned soup & fruit, crackers) 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 10:15 Explore Luther's Small Catechism with Pr. Bailey	20 8 - 1:00 NAACP Martin Luther King Breakfast - Dining Room 1:00 Women's Bible Study with Maureen 6:00 Spousal Grief Support 7:00 Dartball at Grace	21 1:00 Bible Study - Online	22 5:00 S.L.A.M. with Maureen - Lounge 6:00 Kids Club 6:30 Chancel Choir	23 G & T ASSEMBLED 11:30 Soup Kitchen	24	25 4:00 Worship/Communion
26 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone	27 1:00 Women's Bible Study with Maureen 5:30 Endowment Meeting	28 1:00 Bible Study - Online 5:30 Juggling Act - The Garrison	29 5:00 S.L.A.M. with Maureen - Lounge 6:00 Kids Club 6:30 Chancel Choir	30 11:30 Soup Kitchen	31	

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7:00 Dartball at Grace