

February 2025

Grace & Truth



Valentine's Day Dinner & Fundraiser...

Great Food, Great Fun, and All for a Great Cause!

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Contact Us...

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A note from our pastor ...



Typically, my February newsletter article has something to do with Lent, Ashes, or Ash Wednesday. However, this year the joys of Easter come late, and the blessed journey of Lent doesn't begin until March 5th. In this long

Season of Epiphany, I've asked myself, "What shall we ponder together this month?" How about the gift of love!

Many of us will celebrate "Valentine's Day" by sharing a card, candy, sweet treat, kind hello, or passionate kiss with someone. Also, don't forget you can celebrate "Valentine's Day" here at Grace as we host a Lasagna Dinner for Let's Build Beds! While many will gather here for dinner to celebrate this day of love, others will feel lost and alone. The reasons some feel this way are many and varied. For some, their loved ones have come and gone. For others, love has been a stranger. And for a few others, the concept of love has been misconstrued by violence, hatred, and abuse. It is a sad reality, but true.

As the world celebrates the gift of love one day a year, we are called to faithfully share, model, and express the love of God with one another each and every day. As I think of God's love, I am always reminded of the hymn "Love Has Come." Granted it is a Christmas Hymn, sung to "Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella," I believe the words speak well to us as we contemplate God's gift of love.

Love has come, a light in the darkness! Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it. Hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

Love is born! Come share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow in the eyes of His mother. What is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come, He never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high! ELW 292

While the days are still short dark throughout the month of February, I pray that you might see God's love as a "Light in the darkness." While the days of February are often brutally cold, I pray that God's love will warm your hearts, just as a child finds warmth nestled in the arms of a parent. While winter storms rage, fires burn, and winds howl, I pray that God's love will be the "peace are hearts are seeking." For it is ultimately God's love that we are called to freely exchange, offer up to one another, and model, knowing fully that God's love is poured out unconditionally to everyone. May we be bold enough to do the same!

Sharing God's gift of love with you!

Pastor Bailey

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS ARE STILL NEEDED! As we venture into Lent at the beginning of March, Pastor Bailey would love to reintroduce lay worship leaders and begin to include you in the midst of our Sunday Morning worship service. So far four people who have been gracious to volunteer to assist in leading worship. Our hope is to include many more so that all of us have the chance to be a voice of hope for the world. If you are interested in knowing more or would like to assist, please call, or email Pastor as soon as possible. A brief 'training' will likely happen at the end of February. Please stay tuned for more information.

LISTENING WITH A SECOND EAR – Taking time to listen and reflect together! The Synod Staff has designated 2025 as the “Year of Listening”. Modeling this, about 20 of us gathered in January, to listen to one another. It was a great time to “chat” as ideas were shared, questions were raised, and prayer offered up.

You are invited to continue this conversation as we gather for our next, “Listening with a Second Ear” on **Sunday, February 9** following worship. Together we can gather to share our joys, sorrows, concerns, celebrations, ideas, and dreams.

THE BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS OUR HELP!

On February 1 & 2 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!

THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE!

Together we are exploring Martin Luther’s Small Catechism. Our hope is to join in an “**adult confirmation**” class on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. However, with the Annual Meeting, we will only be meeting on February 16. All are welcome as we explore a bit more of Luther’s teaching on the Ten Commandments, Apostles’ Creed, Lord’s Prayer, and all the rest that is included within the Small Catechism.

MAUREEN’S MONDAY WOMEN’S BIBLE

STUDY will meet at 1 pm in the lounge. This winter we will be looking at the book of Philippians. All women are invited!

ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS & ADULTS

Beginning February 5, while our elementary and middle schoolers are enjoying “Kids Club” all of our older youth (yes, Adults you can still be a youth at heart) are welcome to gather with Pastor Bailey for some conversation, prayer, and reflection on Wednesdays at 6 pm. Together we will try and tackle some “**Big Kid**” conversations through Rob Bell’s “Nooma” video series.

FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE

Bring your donations to worship on **February 15 & 16**. This month we will collect pasta, sauce, rice and mac & cheese.



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.

MAUREEN’S WEDNESDAY NIGHT SLAM GROUP

meets at 5 pm the lounge. We are using 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 **February 20 at 6 pm**. We will meet at the Chateau Vineyard and Winery in Helena. Please call the church office if you plan to attend.

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

SPOUSAL GRIEF SUPPORT

will meet on **February 17 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 at The Garrison. We will meet on February 25. If you plan to attend please call the church office.

Join us for a special fundraising event for
LET'S BUILD BEDS!



*Valentine's Day
Dinner*

Friday, February 14, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church - 705 W. State Street, Fremont

~ MENU ~

Appetizers, Homemade Lasagna, Salad, Bread, Dessert
Beverages include Wine, Coffee, Pop, and Water
Evening includes 50/50 Drawing and Raffle Baskets

TICKETS: \$40/Person \$75/Couple

Purchase tickets at Grace Lutheran Church office (*located on Clover St.*)
M-Th 9am-4pm; F - 9am-1pm

Help us reach our goal of \$10,000 to build 50 beds!



Community Mission Project coming to Fremont SEPTEMBER 13, 2025!

Let's Build Beds is an organization that builds beds for children who may be sleeping on sofas or floors.

On Saturday, September 13, 2025, LIFT congregations (*Grace Lutheran, Hayes Memorial UMC, St. John's, St. Mark, and Trinity UMC*) will meet at Grace Lutheran, build beds, and deliver them to children in our community!

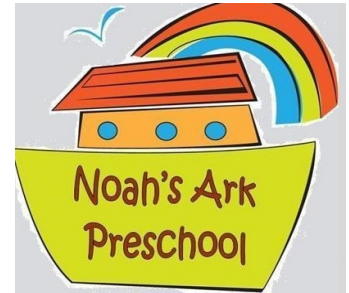
Mark your calendar and Let's Build Beds and help make some smiling faces!

To Volunteer, Donate, or for more info contact Maureen Pump at maureenpump2022@gmail.com or 419-332-1558.



The latest from Noah's Ark...

It's been a great start to the new year. All the children came back from their break ready and eager to get things going again. We added another child into our PreK 3 class, and he is adjusting well. We are excited to continue to work on our letters. For the letter "L" we enjoyed a visit from an adorable pair of lambs, and the children got to help bottle feed them! It was a great hands-on experience. Also, for the letter "M" we will have a visit from Mailman Sonny! We absolutely love when Sonny comes to visit, the kids really enjoy learning what it's like to be a mailman! We will hopefully continue to have visitors from our community come and visit during the rest of the school year, as well!



We are already starting to enroll for the next school year, so if anyone is interested please let us know. Our email is noahsark.fremont@gmail.com. Thank you.

Andrea Hirt, Administrator
Noah's Ark Preschool

JUST 4 FUN LEFT OUT

Directions: Insert one letter set from column A in the spaces provided in column B to form a six-, seven- or eight-letter word. Each set in column A can be used only once.

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
ARB	1. FORE _____ N
AVO	2. SP _____ XES
ELL	3. HO _____ ENY
ETH	4. GRI _____ ED
GIB	5. LI _____ BLE
HIN	6. TAN _____ LE
ILL	7. GRA _____ TY
KEA	8. FL _____ R
MAC	9. UR _____ RA
MOG	10. GE _____ OX
NOO	11. DW _____ ER
TUI	12. SE _____ MS
XIS	13. SP _____ WAY

Receiving the Gift of Holy Baptism



January 12, 2025 -
Bailey Yvonne Rollins,
daughter of Taylor Rollins.

VOWEL HUNT

Can you identify these New Testament books that are missing vowels?

1. JD,
2. TTS,
3. PTR,
4. JMS,
5. LK,
6. RVLTN,
7. CTS,
8. TMTH,
9. GLTNS,
10. PHLMN.

youth MINISTRY

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.

YOUTH COMMITTEE will meet at **5:30 pm** on **February 5** in the youth room. Parents & youth are welcome to attend and bring their ideas for activities. A light meal will be served.

Spirit
KIDS CLUB
with Heather
Wednesdays 6-7:30 pm
Meet in the Auditorium
More information contact: HeatherRHawn@gmail.com

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



CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet on **February 2** and **February 16** at St. John's from noon - 1 pm.

Souper Bowl Brunch

February 9, 2024
Following Worship

Bring a crockpot of soup or dessert to share, but it is not required. All are welcome!

Bring a few \$ to vote for your favorites.
All \$ will benefit the Soup Kitchen.
Questions? Contact HeatherRHawn@gmail.com

LET'S CELEBRATE NATIONAL KINDNESS DAY on **Sunday, February 16**. Youth are invited to join us in the Auditorium from 10:15 - 11:30 am to make signs encouraging kindness and have a little treat. Take your sign home to display and spread kindness on February 17 which is National Kindness Day.

NOISY OFFERING



NOISY OFFERING is received the first weekend of each month. The next collection will be **February 1 & 2, 2025**. This collection will be given to the LIFT Let's Build Beds project scheduled for later in 2025.

Thanks to your generosity in December we collected **\$282.25** for the Back Pack Buddies Program. **"THANK YOU"** to everyone who helps make a **JOYFUL NOISE** each month!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

February 2	Cynthia Auxter	229 N. Main St., Lindsey
February 6	Dorothy Dierksheide	1247 N. River Rd., Rm. 509
February 13	Donna Cooley	1611 Ell Dr.
February 22	George Dabrunz	2017 Port Clinton Rd.

WORLD HUNGER APPEAL - Included in this mailing is an envelope for ELCA WORLD HUNGER. During the month of February, we lift up hunger around the world. Please use this envelope for your gift to World Hunger. ELCA World Hunger responds to neighbors around the corner and around the world.



Happy Anniversary

Celebrating 50 or more years of wedded bliss!

February 1, 1974 - Duane & Maureen Pump,
1712 Maple Lane

February 3, 1962 - Norman & Patricia Rife,
5212 St. Rt. 101, Clyde

February 7, 1964 - Edwin & Laura Lamalie,
1519 Co. Rd. 129

February 11, 1961 - Clarence & Sandra Weickert,
700 Coulson St., Rm. 212,
Clyde

February 16, 1963 - Larry & Linda Beck,
19 Fox Run Dr.



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.)

WITH THANKSGIVING

A quick word of thanks for all of the Christmas cards, gifts, goodies and sweet treats that were shared with us. They were a wonderful reminder of the warmth and welcome that all of Grace has extended to us.

God's Blessings,
The Bailey's

To the Kitchen Helpers,

Thank you for your hard work and kindness for our mom's funeral lunch. Everything was delicious.

The family of Dorothy Wheeler

With Sympathy

*Dorothy Wheeler
Anne Offenburg*

FINANCIAL REPORT

AS OF DECEMBER 31

	<u>2024 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2024 BUDGET</u>	<u>2023 ACTUAL</u>
Year to Date Total Income	\$582,836	\$514,700	\$826,523
Year to Date Total Expenses	\$605,841	\$538,200	\$854,678
Year to Date Income Less Expense	\$ -23,005	\$ -23,500	\$ -28,155

Dedicated Funds transferred in to cover project expenses: \$140,889

CHURCH COUNCIL - Minutes January 13, 2025

- **Budget Hearing** was held at 5pm in the Lounge and via Zoom. Review and discussion of the proposed 2025 Budget was held. Council is recommending the proposed budget for approval at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 2.
- **MISSIONS/OUTREACH:** Noisy offering collected for January totaled \$282.25; "thank you" to those who supplied cookies & Nativity scenes for the Advent Tour of Churches in December; Valentine's Day Dinner & Fundraiser is on schedule; tickets are on sale through February 7.
- **WORSHIP:** Blessings of the Font for the next 6 Sundays; discussion & planning has begun for Ash Wednesday & Lent, Holy Week & Easter. Ash Wednesday & mid-week Lent worship will be at 6:30pm
- **PROPERTY:** Midwest Maintenance submitted proposal for building repair & maintenance, Council approved \$14,050 for these projects with work to be done when weather breaks; installation of security system to begin February 3; looking into Pulpit lighting; Auto Flushes will be installed on toilets; using Rohr Total Lawn Care for snow removal (same as 2024)
- **STEWARDSHIP:** no report; committee did not meet
- **YOUTH:** Christmas Bell Ringing raised over \$700; re-evaluated 2024 programming & emailed surveys to parents; Confirmation retreat is January 18.
- **Pr. Bailey** - 21 attended Listening with a Second Ear, good conversation was held; Pastor will attend a Leadership Retreat the week of January 20; Pastor has asked Council to prayerfully consider being a Worship Leader.
- **Maureen** - all going well at St. Mark and Grace; please support the Valentine's Day Dinner event
- **Heather** - Craft & Crop fundraiser collected \$163 for the Soup Kitchen with 10 ladies in attendance; discussion on possible Soup gathering during Super Bowl in February.



annual
**Congregational
 MEETING**
 Sunday, February 2
 10:15 a.m.

ANSWERS:

1. forenoon
2. sphinxes
3. homogeny
4. grimaced
5. ilkeable
6. tangible
7. gratuity
8. flavor
9. urethra
10. gearbox
11. dweller
12. sexisms
13. spillway

Answers to Vowel Hunt:

1. Jude, 2. Titus, 3. Peter,
4. James, 5. Luke,
6. Revelation, 7. Acts,
8. Timothy, 9. Galatians,
10. Philemon.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Clayton J. Bailey, Senior Pastor
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Maureen Pump, Synod Authorized Minister
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Nathan Leonard, Organist/Choir Director
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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,
FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

**The newsletter will be
assembled on
Thursday, February 20, 2025.**

GROUNDHOG



DAY

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Grace Lutheran Church

705 West State Street
Fremont, OH 43420

Return Service Requested


Non-Profit
Paid
Fremont, OH
Permit #133

SERVING IN WORSHIP: FEBRUARY 2025

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

DATE	SERVICE	ACOLYTE	GREETER: NARTHEX	GREETER: BAKER STREET	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	DEACONS/ CLOSERS
FEBRUARY 1 & 2	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	————
	9:00	D. MICHLES	J. GUTHRIE L. HALM	D. ZILLES	B. PRASUHN K. WATKINS	T. MICHLES R. COOPER
FEBRUARY 8 & 9	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	————
	9:00	————	C. AMOR J. AVERS	J. GANGWER	K. & A. OVERMYER	J. BURMEISTER A. FISHER
FEBRUARY 15 & 16	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	————
	9:00	————	K. BURMEISTER S. BURMEISTER	D. & C. POLTER	E. & B. MUFFLER	G. JESS C. STAR
FEBRUARY 22 & 23	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	————
	9:00	M. MOSS	V. OHMS R. HAYNES	S. WATKINS	G. & J. JESS	T. MICHLES J. LETZRING
MARCH 1 & 2	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	————
	9:00	————	L. & B. MCELFRESH	D. ZILLES	S. BRICKER B. BRADFORD	C. AMOR J. KISER

SUNDAY**MONDAY****TUESDAY****WEDNESDAY****THURSDAY****FRIDAY****SATURDAY****2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 4:00 Worship/Communion/ Noisy Offering/Bridge of Hope Food Pantry Collection
2 ANNUAL MEETING/ NOISY OFFERING/ BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 10:15 Annual Meeting Noon - 1:00 Confirmation at Grace	3 9:00 Project Day 1:00 Women's Bible Study with Maureen 7:00 Dartball at Grace	4 11:00 Hymn Selection Committee	5 2:30 Worship Committee - Lounge 5:00 S.L.A.M. with Maureen - Lounge 5:30 Youth Committee Meeting 6:00 Kids Club 6:00 Big Kid Conversations with Pr. Bailey 6:30 Chancel Choir	6 11:30 Soup Kitchen	7	8 4:00 Worship/Communion
9 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 10:00 Listening with a Second Ear with Pr. Bailey 10:15 Souper Bowl Brunch	10 1:00 Women's Bible Study with Maureen 6:00 Executive Board Meeting 7:00 Church Council 7:00 Dartball at St. Paul	11 11:30 - 1:00 Office Closed - Staff Development	12 G & T DEADLINE 5:00 S.L.A.M. with Maureen - Lounge 6:00 Kids Club 6:00 Big Kid Conversations with Pr. Bailey 6:30 Chancel Choir	13 11:30 Soup Kitchen	14 6:00 - Valentine's Day Dinner for Let's Build Beds 	15 4:00 Worship/Communion/Food Pantry Challenge
16 FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE (pasta, sauce, rice and Mac & Cheese) 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone 10:15 Explore Luther's Small Catechism with Pr. Bailey 10:15 Youth - Auditorium for National Day of Kindness	17 9:00 Project Day 1:00 Women's Bible Study with Maureen 6:00 Spousal Grief Support 7:00 Dartball at St. John's	18 2:30 Joy Circle	19 5:00 S.L.A.M. with Maureen - Lounge 6:00 Kids Club 6:00 Big Kid Conversations with Pr. Bailey 6:30 Chancel Choir	20 G & T ASSEMBLED 11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:00 Grace Gathers at the Chateau Vineyard and Winery, Helena	21	22 Pinewood Derby - Pack 302 4:00 Worship/Communion
23 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kids Zone	24 1:00 Women's Bible Study with Maureen 7:00 Dartball at Zion	25 5:30 Juggling Act - The Garrison	26 5:00 S.L.A.M. with Maureen - Lounge 6:00 Kids Club 6:00 Big Kid Conversations with Pr. Bailey 6:30 Chancel Choir	17 11:30 Soup Kitchen	28	