

September 2025

Grace & Truth



JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 7 AS WE CELEBRATE RALLY DAY & KICK OFF BACK TO SCHOOL FOR ALL OF OUR YOUTH AND FOR NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL!

FOLLOWING WORSHIP WE WILL HEAD TO THE COURTYARD FOR GAMES, ACTIVITIES AND FRENCH TOAST & SAUSAGE ON THE GRILL.



Look what's inside...

[A Note from Pastor.....page 2](#)
[Soup Kitchen.....page 3](#)
[Food Pantry Collections.....page 3](#)
[Noisy Offeringpage 3](#)
[Survey.....page 3](#)
[Grace Gathers.....page 4](#)
[Listening with a Second Ear.....page 4](#)
[PB&J².....page 4](#)

[Bible Studies.....page 4](#)
[Acolytes.....page 5](#)
[Save the Date.....page 5](#)
[Canoe Trip.....page 5](#)
[Confirmation.....page 5](#)
[Thankoffering.....page 5](#)
[Birthdays & More.....page 6](#)
[Church Business.....page 7](#)

Contact Us...

Grace Lutheran Church
Office Hours –
9:00am-4:00pm, M-Th
9:00am - 1:00pm, Fridays
Phone: 419-332-1558
E-mail:
gracefremont@yahoo.com
Web page:
www.gracefremont.org

A note from our pastor ...



As I sit down to write this article the news is a buzz with reports as President Trump has declared federal control over Washington D.C.. In the midst of the many words shared, reports made, and questions asked, one of the most

overlooked items within this declaration is the removal of all the homeless from D.C.. I will have to admit I'm struggling with this particular declaration. As a nation, I think we can do better than sheer military force. As Christians, I know we are called love and serve our neighbor regardless of status in life.

My ministry journey with homelessness stems back to my first Call in Norfolk, Virginia. Every day my route from home to church took me under I-64 where a small encampment was tucked up in the beams of the underpass. I saw it nearly every day. As I would drive by it would sadden me. I would pray for them as I passed by. However, not once in my three years of serving at St. John's did I ever stop. Not once did I ever think of suggesting this as an outreach ministry. I can make excuses: I was young. I was inexperienced. Yet, as a person of faith I should have and could have done something.

It wasn't until I moved to Florida, two congregations later, that I was able to begin putting my desire to serve the homeless to work. Where we lived, it didn't take long to transition from driving past the rich and famous into the cardboard encampments of the homeless. At Nativity, where I served as pastor, we had a partnership with two congregations that were mission centered. Together we were able to feed, cloth, spend time with, and pour out love upon those who were calling the streets home. I even spent one weekend trimming toenails and giving foot baths just outside the doors of one of our partner congregations. Talk about humbling!

As I moved from Florida back to Ohio, I came to realize that homelessness is still a concern but it's not as visual because in our area they are the "hidden homeless" meaning they sleep in cars, couch surf, are loft above someone's garage. Several years ago, I got involved with the Homeless Coalition in Tiffin. Here we fed, provided mattress, and eventually worked toward opening Seneca County's first homeless shelter. I say all of this not to gloat, but as a kind reminder that homelessness is an issue everywhere. Yes, even here in Fremont there are homeless individuals. From time to time, they'll find their way into our courtyard sleeping on the cool steps or sitting in the shade. It warms my heart knowing that we can provide a simple safe space for them to find some rest. Still, I am reminded that there is much work to be done.

I say all of this as I recently read an article by Diana Butler Bass, a well-respected Christian author, preacher, and historical theologian. Diana writes:

Jesus was homeless for most of his life.

We don't think about it very often, but it is true. He was born in a stable far from home. His family fled to escape the murderous King Herod. They returned for a time and lived in Nazareth. But, as soon as Jesus began his public ministry, he was run out of his own hometown. He became an itinerant preacher living off of charity, staying with friends and followers, or sleeping outdoors in the rough or on roads. Of himself, he remarked, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

He told stories, like the one we call "The Good Samaritan," about people without homes. Jesus always sided with the homeless. He embraced and healed them. And he died with no grave of his own — his final resting place was a gift from a wealthy disciple.

Jesus was born, lived, and died as an unhoused person.

From Diana's website "The Cottage"

We don't often think of Jesus as "homeless," yet her words speak truth. Jesus, Son of God, King of kings, lived on the streets and was dependent upon the hospitality and grace of others! Now I can't tell you how to think politically, but as a pastor I can remind you that we are called to share the love of God with all people regardless of income status, gender, sexuality, race, creed, or color. We can't do that with a bulldozer, as some are proposing might be done in D.C.. We can't do that with a garbage truck, as others are proposing

could be done in D.C.. We can't do that if we are building walls and barricades. We can only do that if we are building relationships, listening to stories, and walking side by side with everyone we encounter. That's the ministry of Jesus. This is the ministry we are called to be a part of.

Blessings as we share in ministry together!

Pastor Bailey

Your Opinion Matters!



The City of Fremont and Downtown Fremont, Inc. are conducting a market study to understand what the citizens of Fremont want and need from their community, what businesses are missing from our area, and how best to support local growth and development. CAN YOU help your community by taking a few minutes to complete a survey? Please scan the QR code to share your thoughts on the future of Fremont or visit https://bgsu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1XjhSgoED0Uz1T8

THE SOUP KITCHEN NEEDS SOME EXTRA HANDS

to help prepare and serve a weekly meal for our neighbors in need. The meal is served every Thursday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in the dining room.

A **Safe Food Handling Workshop** for both current and new volunteers will be held on **Wednesday, September 3, at 5:30 pm.** While this training is not mandatory, we strongly encourage all volunteers to attend.

If you plan to participate, please contact the church office so we can prepare for the number of attendees.



THE BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS OUR HELP!

On September 6 & 7 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!

THE NOISY OFFERING is received the first weekend of each month. The next collection will be **September 6 & 7, 2025.**

The collection for the third quarter will be given to the Liberty Center. Thanks to your generosity in August we collected \$156.74. **"THANK YOU"** to everyone who helps make a **JOYFUL NOISE** each month!

FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE - Bring your donations to worship on **September 20 & 21.** This month we will collect peanut butter & jelly.

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.

Newlyweds

August 2 -

Ann (King) & Norman Frisch

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY WITH PR. BAILEY & JESUS (P B & J²) We are kicking off something new for the Fall. Join Pastor Bailey for a time of conversation as we pre-read the upcoming Sunday's text. Together we can reflect to themes, explore where God is speaking to us in these words, and share lunch together. It will be simple, but everything you need will be provided for a Peanut Butter & Jelly sandwich. Hence the name, P B & J²! Peanut Butter & Jelly with Pastor Bailey & Jesus! We'll gather in the Dining Room on Monday's beginning **September 8 at 11:30 am.**

MAUREEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY EACH MONDAY at **1 PM IN THE LOUNGE.** This group is currently doing a study on *The Art of Growing Old* by Carroll Saussy. Participants are asked to purchase their own book.

SLAM (Scripture, Life And Me) resumes on **Wednesday, September 10 at 5 pm** in the conference room. We will be doing a study geared toward not being fearful but embracing courage. There are many things that cause us to be fearful but as followers of Jesus we don't have to allow it to overwhelm us. Come and find the courage to face your fears.

LISTENING WITH A SECOND EAR - As school bells begin to ring, and our local students are called to attention and asked to listen to their teachers. We won't be ringing the bell but we will gather to listen to one another when we meet for Listening with a Second Ear on September 14 following worship. Let's gather in front of the fans as we share conversation, dream, and grow together as a people of God.

LET'S BUILD BEDS EVENT IS QUICKLY APPROACHING! The building day is September 13 in the west parking lot. The event will begin at 9 am and last for a few hours. Breakfast and lunch will be served. If you have not signed up already you may call the church office and let us know if you want to help. Don't miss the opportunity to help a child who doesn't have a bed receive their very own!



GRACE GATHERS is a fellowship group that meets monthly. The next gathering will be on **September 18 at 6 pm.** We will meet at the Chateau Vineyard and Winery in Helena. Please call the church office if you plan to attend.

A GOOD OLD FASHION BIBLE STUDY - In our Year of Listening, you are invited to a Good Old Fashion Bible Study with Pastor Bailey. Beginning September 17, we will join on Wednesday evening at 5 p.m. in the large Sunday School Classroom and listen to the stories of old as we dig deeper into God's word and explore some of our favorite Bible Stories together.

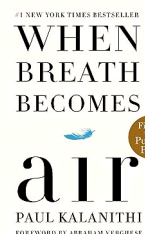
JUGGLING ACT

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 each month, our next gathering will be on September 23. If you plan to attend please call the church office.

BOOKWORMS will meet on **September 22 at 2 pm** in the lounge to discuss *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi. In this book the author writes about his lung cancer diagnosis and how he went from treating the dying to fighting to live.



SPOUSAL GRIEF SUPPORT will not meet in September. Maureen will be attending a synod event for Synod Authorized Ministers. Mark your calendars for October 20. We will meet at 6 pm in the lounge.

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

youth MINISTRY

CONFIRMATION - Calling all 7th & 8th graders! We are busy preparing for confirmations and we hope that you will join us as we explore Luther's Small Catechism this year. Please contact Heather or Pr. Bailey to let us know your student is interested in participating in confirmation this year. We will meet weekly following worship starting on **September 14**.

ACOLYTES at Grace serve during the 9 am Sunday worship. We encourage acolytes to sign up at least every other month. You may sign up using the QR code in this announcement.



SCAN ME

Opportunities to serve are now available through December. If you have a child waiting to be trained, please contact Heather at HeatherRHawn@gmail.com to set up a time following a Sunday worship.

KIDS ZONE will meet during worship following the Children's Message starting September 14. Join Penny Russell and Cornelia Star as a lead a short lesson for toddlers through 5th graders. Children will return to worship before communion.

SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 17 - Spirit Youth Activities will begin. A calendar will be released on Rally Day.

DECEMBER 6 - Breakfast in Bethlehem will take place at St. John's Lutheran.



LET'S GO CANOEING

YARD GAMES, PADDLE & LUNCH

RSVP BY

9/25

SEPTEMBER 28TH

Join us for this family event, middle & high school may attend without a parent. Meet at Grace's main parking lot at 10:30am & carpool to Rest Haven in Castalia. We will head back to Grace about 1:30pm. Lunch will be provided.
RSVP to HeatherRHawn@gmail.com or 419-307-1808.

Thankoffering

Women of the
ELCA

"... gifts from individuals in
gratitude for blessings."

Thankoffering weekend will be observed the weekend of September 20 and 21. Your Thankoffering envelope is enclosed in this newsletter. Please bring it to worship with you that weekend.

The items that you have donated for the kits, along with the quilts made by the Project Day Ladies, will be on display. The entire shipment will be blessed before it is packed and shipped. Come, thank God for our many blessings as we prepare for Lutheran World Relief.

Thankofferings are collected and sent to support the life-changing ministries of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, we collect our Thankofferings.

In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, we collect our Thankofferings.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

September 5	David Souder	2459 Buckland Ave.
September 8	Terry Radsick	746 S. Co. Rd. 232
September 9	Gerald Gallagher	532 Pennsylvania Ave.
September 9	Becky Seibert	4215 W. State St.
September 11	Janet Bowles	1118 Garrison St.
September 13	Peggy Dorr	1863 Morrison Rd.
September 15	Kennard Hirt	236 St. Paul Dr.
September 15	Barbara McNelly	30 Fox Run Dr.
September 15	Roger Otermat	1416 Co. Rd. 116
September 18	June Knepper	3745 W. Hayes Ave.
September 23	John Avers	3640 Co. Rd. 223
September 23	Linda Beck	19 Fox Run Dr.
September 26	Marlene Mullholand	15 Meadowbrook Dr.
September 28	Marlene Smith	P. O. Box 174, Lindsey, OH
September 30	Helen Jess	4666 W. Lakeshore Dr. Port Clinton
September 30	Sara Tanner	916 North St., Apt. 19

Happy Anniversary

Celebrating 50 or more years of wedded bliss!

*September 21, 1973 - Gary & Karen Haubert,
381 St. Rt. 635, Helena*

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

My heartfelt thanks for the many cards, kind words, and well-wishes upon my retirement; your kindness is humbling.

How lucky am I, that over the past 24 years in the Grace office, I have met so many wonderful people.

Whether we've worked together on a special event or a committee, or if you're one of the many faithful volunteers, or perhaps just a friendly face that has passed through the office – it has been my pleasure getting to know each of you.

I am truly blessed!

My love and peace to you all,
Linda Baumer

THANK YOU!

Wendy and I were humbled once again by your generosity and willingness to sweat it out, lug boxes, and help us in our moving process. For everyone who pitched in, your help was appreciated more than you could ever know.

With Thanksgiving!
Pastor & Wendy Bailey

Dear Grace Lutheran,
Thank you for awarding me the Grace Lutheran Church General Scholarship. I am grateful for your support as I continue my education at The University of Findlay.

Sincerely,
Lily Ball

COMMUNITY BBQ'S - A huge thank you to all who stopped out to help and support the Community BBQ's this summer. A special thank you to Tom & Tracy Michles for hauling the grill to the park every week.

PAIGE RUSSELL MEMORIAL 5k - Thank you to all who supported the Paige Russell Memorial 5K. Your support helps to fund the clubs and activities that Paige loved so much!

Heather Hawn, Youth Minister

GIVING UPDATE FOR GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF JULY 31

	<u>2025 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2025 YTD BUDGET</u>	<u>2024 ACTUAL</u>
Year to Date Total Income	\$270,096	\$274,662	\$281,970
Designated Funds transferred in	9,869	13,678	109,595
Contingency Released	72,199		
 Year to Date Total Income	 \$352,164	 \$288,340	 \$391,565
Year to Date Total Expenses	\$348,920	\$305,706	\$387,858
 Year to Date Income Less Expense	 \$ 3,245	 \$ -17,366	 \$ 3,707

CHURCH COUNCIL - Minutes August 11, 2025

- **MISSIONS/OUTREACH:** Noisy Offering amount was \$156.74. Third quarter Noisy Offering will go to Liberty Center. Let's Build Beds will be on September 13, 2025, and are still welcoming volunteers. SLAM Bible study on Fear begins September 10 at 5 pm. Grace Gathers had 14 in attendance. The next gathering is August 21 at Chateau.
- **WORSHIP:** On August 31, Linda Baumer will be recognized for her years of service. September 13/14 is Let's Build Beds. On September 20/21 Holy Land visitors will be here for Temple Talk. A baptism is scheduled for the September 27 Worship Service. Hymns are planned for the month. The Toledo Symphony changed their date to December 18. We will be unable to have the large tree in front of the church. There can possibly be two pencil trees up by the altar. The Symphony committee will possibly be helping with the cost of the trees. The committee meets in October.
- **PROPERTY:** Sidewalk repairs are completed. Security System is complete with all sensors reporting. The Main Office door closure was completed on August 12. Ed Urban will begin landscaping the week of August 11. The snowplow asphalt damage was inspected, and the handicap arrows will be paid for and completed. The manufacturer will place shoes on the snowplows in the future. Bushes have been trimmed by Jim and Michle's son. Greg will spray weeds. The water valve repair is still in progress, and the steel plate will be replaced and paved over when completed. John Burmeister converted three chalkboards to white dry erase boards.
- **STEWARDSHIP:** Committee did not meet. Next meeting on the 1st Wednesday of September.
- **YOUTH:** Confirmation will meet weekly beginning September 14. BBQ Tuesdays went well, averaging 70 people. Paint Me A Story was well attended. Gatorade Games also went well. Rally Day is September 7. Spirit will start September 17.

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 Clayton J. Bailey, Senior Pastor
pastorcbailey@gmail.com
Maureen Pump, Lay Minister
maureenpump2022@gmail.com
Denise Biddle, Office Administrator
gracefremont@yahoo.com
Nathan Leonard, Organist/Choir Director
nateykeys@gmail.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 am - 4 pm
Friday: 9 am - 1 pm.






**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**

**The newsletter will be
assembled on
Thursday, September 18, 2025.**



**The church office will be closed on
Monday, September 1 in observance of Labor Day.
Normal office hours will resume on
Tuesday, September 2.**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 	2	3 11:30 Stewardship Meeting, Lounge 5:30 Soup Kitchen Safe Food Handling Training, Dining Room 6:00 Missions/Outreach Meeting 6:15 Youth Committee Meeting	4 11:30 Soup Kitchen	5	6 4:00 Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering/Bridge of Hope Food Pantry Collection
7 NOISY OFFERING/BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kid's Zone	8 11:30 - PB & J ² , Dining Room 1:00 Bible Study with Maureen 6:00 Executive Committee 7:00 Church Council	9 11:30 Staff Development, Office Closed	10 G & T DEADLINE 5:00 SLAM, Conference Room	11 11:30 Soup Kitchen	12	13 9:00 Let's Build Beds, West Side Parking Lot 4:00 Worship/Communion
14 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kid's Zone 10:15 Listening with a Second Ear With Pr. Bailey 10:15 Confirmation	15 11:30 - PB & J ² , Dining Room 1:00 Bible Study with Maureen	16 2:30 Joy Circle	17 5:00 SLAM, Conference Room 5:00 Bible Study with Pr. Bailey in the Large Sunday School Room 6:00 Youth Activities 6:30 Choir	18 G & T ASSEMBLED 11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:00 Grace Gathers at The Chateau Vineyard & Winery, Helena	19	20 4:00 Worship/Communion/Food Pantry Challenge/Thankoffering
21 THANKOFFERING SUNDAY/FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE (Peanut Butter & Jelly) 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kid's Zone 10:15 Confirmation 	22 11:30 PB & J ² , Dining Room 1:00 Bible Study with Maureen 2:00 Bookworms, Lounge	23 5:30 Juggling Act - The Garrison	24 5:00 SLAM, Conference Room 5:00 Bible Study with Pr. Bailey in the Large Sunday School Room 6:00 Youth Activities 6:30 Choir	25 11:30 Soup Kitchen	26	27 4:00 Worship/Communion
28 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kid's Zone 10:15 Confirmation 10:30 Canoeing Trip	29 11:30 - PB & J ² , Dining Room 1:00 Bible Study with Maureen	30	 September			2025

SERVING IN WORSHIP: SEPTEMBER 2025

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

DATE	SERVICE	ACOLYTE	GREETERS: NARTHEX	GREETERS: BAKER ST	WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	READERS	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	DEACONS / CLOSERS
SEPTEMBER 6 & 7	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	C. MILLER	W. BAILEY	————
	9:00	K. ROLLINS	D. & R. COOPER	L. & J. OVERMYER	M. NOSSAMAN	J. DORR	S. BRICKNER	C. AMOR C. BOUCHER
SEPTEMBER 13 & 14	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	T. SCHARDT	W. BAILEY	————
	9:00	D. MICHLES	J. AVERS K. BURMEISTER	D. ZILLES	K. LINDSAY	P. RUTHERFORD	J. OVERMYER	J. BURMEISTER W. COOPER
SEPTEMBER 20 & 21	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————		W. BAILEY	————
	9:00	T. MICHLES	S. BURMEISTER J. GUTHRIE	S. WATKINS	P. RUTHERFORD	M. NOSSAMAN	J. JESS	M. GEDEON G. JESS
SEPTEMBER 27 & 28	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	J. FULTON	W. BAILEY	————
	9:00	K. MICHLES	V. OHMS R. HAYNES	D. & C. POLTER	M. HAWN	H. SEIBERT	B. PRASUHN	P. KISER J. LETZRING
OCTOBER 4 & 5	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	C. MILLER	W. BAILEY	————
	9:00	D. MICHLES	L. & B. MCELFRESH	J. GANGWER	T. SCHARDT	H. BIDDINGER	T. SCHLING	T. MICHLES C. BOUCHER