

December 2025

Grace & Truth

WEDNESDAY'S DURING ADVENT



This Advent we will gather under the light of the *Bright Stars of Bethlehem* for our midweek worship services. This year will look different as we will explore using a “Dinner Church” model for our gatherings. All are welcome to join our mid-week gatherings.

5:15 pm - Doors Open

5:30 pm - Gathering Prayer, Reflection & Conversation

5:45 pm - Dinner & Conversation

6:15 pm - Small Group Opportunities (Crafts, Conversation & Prayer)

6:45 pm - Closing, Blessing & Sending



Guided by the light of the same star that brought the shepherds and wisemen to Bethlehem, we welcome all of our neighbors as we journey to the Christ Child.

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Contact Us...

Grace Lutheran Church
Office Hours –

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

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gracefremont@yahoo.com

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A note from our pastor ...



The wish lists are all drafted. Soon, shopping carts will be full. Soon, gifts will be bought, wrapped, and tucked up under the tree. Soon the joys of Christmas will be here. Then, as quickly as it all began, it will all be over.

This year as both of our boys have “grown up” and “moved on” Wendy and I have contemplated the many gifts of Christmas. As we do, we continue to come back to the question “what do we really need?” Yes, gifts are nice. Yes, it’s fun to give and to receive. Yet the simple truth is all of us have a lot of “stuff.” Most of us don’t really need anything. At the same time, I know there is a great need in the world around us.

Mindful of the needs of others, I challenge you to consider their needs as part of your Christmas list as well. What if we all made a tithe and spent 10% of our Christmas budget on someone else? Think of the impact that each of us could make! Where there are plenty of great causes to support, here are a few that I would like to remind you of.

The **Bridge of Hope Food Pantry** serves more than just the migrant community. Twice a week their doors are open and serve as part of our shared LIFT ministry. While they are able to stock their shelves from the local food bank, meats and proteins are in short supply and are often bought at our local grocery stores. As you can imagine, that gets expensive quickly. If you would like to make a donation to the Bridge of Hope you can do so by giving to Grace with a note in the memo line.

The **Soup Kitchen** continues to feed the hungry every Thursday for lunch. As we grow into the New Year, we anticipate adding an evening meal. The Soup Kitchen has had some generous donations throughout the year but one thing we could use are extra hands to help serve especially if we add an evening meal. It’s a great way to build community as we continue to gather around the table. If you would like to make a donation to the Soup Kitchen you may do so by writing a check to Grace Lutheran and write “Soup Kitchen” on the memo line.

The **ELCA Good Gifts** is another fun way to remember our sisters and brothers around the world. Through our Church’s Good Gifts program you can buy chickens, goats, pigs, cows, honey bees, or even the entire farm. You can also help sponsor water filters, irrigation, wells, tools, and more. The idea is that we not only provide what people need now, but that we give them gifts that are sustainable into the future. Chickens lay eggs that can be sold. Cows produce milk that can make cheese. These are lasting gifts that are fun and creative to give. Wendy and I have even wrapped up photos of the “farm” and given them to our family as their gifts. The best way to give them is through the QR code posted on the right.



Together as we celebrate anew the greatest gift ever given, let us be generous gift givers by remembering not only our own family, but the needs of many in the world around us!

Blessings,

Pastor Bailey



OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP!

JOIN US ON December 6 from 9 - 11 am at St. John's for LIFT's Annual *Breakfast in Bethlehem* event. Volunteers are needed as costumed game attendants who will share a portion of the Christmas story. We are also in need of help in the kitchen. To register to help please scan the QR code.



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Youth are invited to join us as we ring bells for the Salvation Army at Wal-Mart on **December 14 from noon – 2pm**. We have both 30 and 60 minute time slots. Please let Heather know if you will be joining the group.



THE SOUP KITCHEN TEAM needs extra hands on the first and fifth Thursdays of every month to help serve and clean up after meal for our neighbors. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 11 am and typically leave about 1 pm. If you have questions please call the church office and we will get your contact information to the Soup Kitchen staff.

THE LIFT LESSONS AND CAROLS WORSHIP will be held at 10 am on December 28 at St. Mark. We are looking for two people from Grace to read during this worship. If you are interested in participating please contact Maureen.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SPONSORS

This year we will be sponsoring five families for Community Christmas. We will have a tree set up next to the chapel with tags that include items from the families wish list. All gifts are due back to the church by December 10. Please include the tag from the tree with the gift.

Christmas EVE Volunteers Needed

5:00 YOUTH & FAMILY WORSHIP

ACOLTYE GREETER (adult)

9:00 CELEBRATION WORSHIP

ACOLTYE GREETER

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Please drop this form in either the collection plate or in the church office.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

THE BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS OUR HELP! On December 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: cereals, canned meats, rice, dried pinto beans, cans of tomato sauce, pasta, paper towels, cleaning supplies and diapers. These gifts may be placed in the grocery carts located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you for your help!

FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE - Bring your donations to worship on **December 20 & 21**. This month we will collect mashed potato flakes and noodles.

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.*

WE'RE HIRING! Our custodial team is looking for an extra set of hands to assist with mopping, vacuuming, and other custodial needs. The position offers 6 - 8 hours a week. If you are interested please contact Church Office.

THE NOISY OFFERING is received the first weekend of each month. The next collection will be **December 6 & 7, 2025**. *The offering for the last quarter will be given to Pontifex.*

Thanks to your generosity in November we collected \$325.95. **"THANK YOU"** to everyone who helps make a **JOYFUL NOISE** each month!

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY WITH PR. BAILEY & JESUS (P B & J²) Got time for lunch? Want to explore the Bible readings for the coming weekend? Join Pr. Bailey for a time of conversation as we read, reflect, challenge ourselves and explore where God is speaking to us in these words. Everything you need for a peanut butter and jelly sandwich will be provided. We will gather in the dining room on Monday's 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. Please know it's not to late to join this group.

A GOOD OLD FASHION BIBLE STUDY with Pastor Bailey will take a break during the month of December to make room for our Advent activities. Stay tuned! The new year will bring opportunities to dig deeper into God's word!

Let's join with all the LIFT Churches at St. Mark for a Service of Lessons & Carols on December 28 at 10 am.



Please note Grace will not hold any services this weekend.

LISTENING WITH A SECOND EAR will meet following worship on Sunday, December 14. Everyone is welcome to gather in the front pews as we share some conversation, dream and grow together as a people of God.

SPOUSAL GRIEF SUPPORT - If you are grieving the loss of your spouse and could use the support of people going through the same loss. Join us on **December 15 at 6 pm** in the lounge.

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

JUGGLING ACT will not meet during November or December. Our next gathering will be on **January 27, 2026 at 5:30 pm** at The Garrison. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

SLAM (Scripture, Life And Me) will be taking a break during Advent so you will be able to attend worship. Our first meeting after the holidays will be January 7, 2026.

Christmas Poinsettia Sale!

Poinsettias are **\$12.50 each**, and all orders and dedication wording are due by **noon on December 5.**

Please make checks payable to **Grace Lutheran Church**, noting *"poinsettia"* on the memo line.

Order easily online by using the QR Code below to visit our Google Order Form or stopping by the church office if you'd rather place your order in person. Payments should be mailed to the church office, 705 West State Street, Fremont Ohio



youth MINISTRY

KIDS ZONE & AFTERWORD - Kids in Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to the Sunday School hallway following the Children's message for a lesson and activity. They will return to worship following communion. Our middle & high School youth are invited gather with Ms. Heather following the sermon to connect with the message. They will return to worship following the offering hymn.

ATTENTION CONFIRMATION STUDENTS - We will not meet on the following dates: November 30, December 21 & 28 or January 4. Class will resume on January 11.

Let's head to the Toledo Zoo
for the Lights Before Christmas!



December 14 at 4:30 pm

Contact Heather at HeatherRHawn@gmail.com if you are interested in going to the zoo.

TWILIGHT TAKEOVER — Christmas Break Game Night! Children and youth are invited to join us for a fun Christmas Break game night on **December 29 from 3–8 PM** in the auditorium (Enter at Clover St). Come enjoy an evening of **games, crafts, pizza, and hangout time!** Both the Auditorium and Youth Room will be open for a space to relax, connect and unwind during the holiday break. **Registration is recommended.** We hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Heather 419-307-1808 or HeatherRHawn@gmail.com.

NEW BABY
*October 13 - Klaire Ellen King,
daughter of Meghan & David King*

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. Opportunities to serve are now available through May 2026. 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.



YOUTH COMMITTEE will meet on December 3 at 7 pm in the auditorium, following mid-week Advent activities.



LifT
LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER
—Rehearsing—

*Breakfast
In Bethlehem*

CHILDREN'S JOURNEY TO THE MANGER

DECEMBER 6, 2025

9-11 AM

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
212 N. Clover St.
Fremont, OH

For more information contact Sue- sulumasa@aol.com
or Heather- HeatherRHawn@gmail.com

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS BREAK MEET-UP: Calling all young adults! You are invited to join Pastor Bailey and Heather Hawn for a relaxed Christmas Break hangout at **Down Thyme Café** on **December 29 from 11:30am to 1pm**. Stop in and enjoy good coffee, conversation, and a chance to reconnect or meet new people. Whether you're home for the holidays or local year-round, we'd love to see you there!

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	Patricia Gallagher	532 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
December 10	Nancy Lawrence	699 Rambo Ln.
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	Bill Schling	822 Bush St.
December 25	Bill Armstrong	2124 Martin Ave.
December 26	Martha Lantz	1923 Castalia St.
December 26	Judy Overmyer	541 Elizabeth St.
December 27	Jon Brough	1301 E. Cole Rd.
December 29	Nancy Balsizer	901 Hidden Harbor Dr., Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

Noah's Ark had a blast at our Halloween parties! We invited parents to come and participate in all of our fun activities and we had a great turn out. We had ten different stations with fun Halloween themed games. We would love to invite everyone to our Christmas program on December 11 at 6 pm.

Andrea Hirt, Administrator
Noah's Ark Preschool



THANK YOU!

Cub Scout Pack 302 has wrapped up our 2025 popcorn fundraiser — and what a success it was! Our scouts sold just over \$9,000 in popcorn this year!

A huge thank-you to Grace Lutheran Church for generously providing our meeting space and always supporting our popcorn sales before and after services. Your continued encouragement means so much to our pack!

The money raised will help cover scout dues, camping trips, awards, supplies, and tons of fun activities throughout the year.

Up next, our spring coffee fundraiser will support our scouts' Day Camp Adventure at White Star Park in Gibsonburg, Ohio, happening the last week of July 2026. We can't wait to see where the next adventure takes us!



CHURCH COUNCIL – Minutes Summary from November 10, 2025

- **MISSIONS/OUTREACH:** Fourth Quarter Noisy Offering will go to Pontifex. Grace Gathers had 12 in attendance. Nine attended Grief Group. Bookworms are reading *Remarkably Bright Creatures*. The next Let's Build is scheduled for September 13, 2026 with LIFT worship, brunch, then the bed build.
- A Spring Progressive dinner will take place on May 2, 2026 at Grace Church as a fundraiser for Let's Build.
- **WORSHIP:** The Theme for Advent is Bright Star of Bethlehem. Hymns were selected for December. Christmas Eve services are changed to 5pm and 9pm. November 23 is decorating for Advent and January 4 will be the un-decorating. December 28 LIFT worship at St. Mark Lessons and Carols.
- **PROPERTY:** Snow plowing will be the same cost as 2024-2025. The Main office flooring is completed thanks to Jerry Moses and team from Fremont Flooring. The parking lot crack sealing and handicap arrow is complete. Jim has ordered a moisture meter for the kitchen walls.
- **STEWARDSHIP:** The *Fall Stewardship Campaign* is complete. There were eight sessions including two breakfasts, two brunches and four dinners with over 70 participating. Pastor Bailey enjoyed the stories of how we were all planted here at Grace. A very special thank you to Tracy Michles for all of her work making the gatherings special.
- **YOUTH:** Family Camp-In will be held November 14-15. Breakfast in Bethlehem will be on December 6 at 9am at St. John's. We will be sponsoring 5 families for Community Christmas. Bell ringing at Walmart will be on December 14th 12-2pm. Lights before Christmas at the Toledo Zoo on December 14, leaving at 4:30. The Christmas program will be on Christmas Eve at the 5pm Service.

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 Pastor or Maureen by calling the church office, 419-332-1558.

**END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS
MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE
CHURCH OFFICE BY 4PM
ON DECEMBER 31, 2025, TO BE
CREDITED TO YOUR 2025 GIVING.**

END-OF-YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS - Thank you for your faithful support of Grace throughout 2025! Please note that giving statements will be available *By Request Only* this year. If you would like a copy of your 2025 giving statement please reach out to the church office and we will gladly prepare one for you. You may request your statement after January 19, 2026. Thank you for your understanding as we try to be good stewards of our resources.

Happy Anniversary

Celebrating 50 or more years of wedded bliss!

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

*December 28, 1973 - Robert & Janet Dorr,
1799 Port Clinton Rd.*

*December 30, 1972 - Bill & Linda Armstrong,
2124 Martin Ave.*

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

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.)

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,
December 10, 2025

The newsletter will be
assembled on
Thursday, December 18, 2025.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

When Fremont City Schools are Closed
-ALL activities at Grace are Cancelled

LEVEL 2: Please use your own judgement;
we want you to be safe!

LEVEL 3: WORSHIP CANCELLED
SOUP KITCHEN CLOSED

