

January, February & March 2026

# Grace & Truth

Join us for worship on...

## Christmas Eve!

**Wednesday, December 24, 2025**

**5:00 pm – Youth & Family**

**9:00 pm – Traditional Worship**

**Both services will include Holy Communion and Candlelight.**

*Look what's inside...*

*Contact Us...*

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**SAVE THE DATE:  
FEBRUARY 1, 2026  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**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 ...



I can recall the sights and sounds of many preschoolers singing their hearts out:

*"We wish you a Merry Christmas  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
And a happy New Year!"*

At the congregation I served in Florida it was typically sung with so much gusto and with arms swinging like the youth were about to toast a beer stein that it sounded more like a drunken carol than a Christmas blessing. Needless to say, it was a comedy of sorts as we all went our merry way into the Christmas and New Year's break.

I mention all of this because it's hard to know what to write for the January Grace & Truth. Some of you will get this just days before Christmas. Others will receive this somewhere in the week in between. Others will be reading this in the new year. So, do I say, Merry Christmas? Or shall I wish you a Happy New Year? I guess the correct answer is yes to both!

Once again, we are blessed to gather ourselves with the shepherds, angels, and magi as we humbly bow before our newborn king. Who are we to have God incarnate born for us? Who are we to worship and adore this one named Jesus, God's Word made flesh? Who are we? We are humble sinners redeemed by the bright light and life that lay in a manger in Bethlehem. While those events took place some two thousand years ago, that light and life continues to beam forth with all of God's brilliance and brightness. For this wonderous gift, which God has given, I wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Then as we turn the calendar on another month, we begin another new year. 2026, who can believe that! For that I wish you a Happy New Year!

Like every new year it is a time of new beginnings. A new year brings a time to experiment. It allows an opportunity to try new things. It is also a time to reflect back and start again. In our personal lives, many of us will consider New Year's resolutions with the hope they'll last more than a few weeks. While we do that at home, we are doing the same here in the office. For 2026, we are going to try something new by changing the Grace & Truth to a quarterly mailing. Yes, you read that correctly your monthly newsletter is going to take new form and will be sent to you four times throughout the year.

That might sound like a drastic change, yet I promise you all the information you need and more will still be available to you. In the new year we are going to try and think green by reducing our copies, postage, and paper usage. Let's be honest as everything gets more expensive, it is one step we can take to be better stewards of the gifts you have entrusted to us.

Add to that, we have this wonderful gift of technology that allows us to stay in contact with one another at a moment's notice. If you have email and are not receiving emails from me or from Grace on a weekly basis, please let us know. Along with the quarterly newsletter, we will continue to send the "Sunday to Monday Connection" on Monday and "This Week at Grace" every Friday. These two emails will contain everything you need to know and more about life here at Grace. While it may be an adjustment, it should be a great step for us to take as we embrace the New Year together.

A Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Pastor Bailey*



# OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP!

**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 BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS OUR HELP!** On *January 3 & 4, January 31 & February 1 and February 28 & March 1* 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** - During the first quarter of 2026 we will collect donations for the Sandusky County Food Pantry.

**January 17 & 18:** canned soup or fruit and crackers.

**February 14 & 15:** pasta, sauce, rice and Mac & cheese.

**March 14 & 15:** 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.*



**THE NOISY OFFERING** during the first quarter will be received on the following dates: *January 3 & 4, January 31 & February 1 and February 28 & March 1*. The offering for the first quarter of 2026 will be given to Bridge of Hope Food Pantry.

Thanks to your generosity in December we collected \$211.02 and in total we sent \$910.94 to Pontifex. **"THANK YOU"** to everyone who helps make a **JOYFUL NOISE** each month!

**ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP WITH SOME ODDS AND ENDS IN THE CHURCH OFFICE?** An extra set of hands would be helpful to prepare welcome cards for the church pews or add inserts to weekend bulletins. If you are able to help please contact Tricia in the church office and let her know if you are able to help.

**DO YOU HAVE A SMARTPHONE? Can you navigate a tablet?** Chances are we all can, which means you are qualified to be our next "organist". As we continue the search for our next organist we will be relying on the digital organ which is operated with our iPad. We could use your help! Please let the office know if you would like to know more about how to help during this time of transition.

## SEPTEMBER 13: LET'S BUILD BEDS DAY!

The first Let's Build Beds event went so well and was so well received, we have decided to do another one! On September 13, 2026, we will meet once again to build 50 beds for children who are going to sleep on a sofa, the floor or in a chair. When you look at your calendar you will see this is a Sunday! So, we will begin with a LIFT worship service here at Grace at 10 am. There will be brunch served following the service and then set-up for the build will take place at noon. We will begin building beds at 1 pm. If you would like to help with the cost, we are accepting donations at the church office. Please make checks out to LIFT and put Let's Build Beds on the memo line. Let's work together to make this event just as successful as the last one!



**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 too late to join this group.

**SLAM (Scripture, Life And Me)** will return on January 7, 2026 at 5 pm. As we begin the year we will be doing a study on the names of God.

**GRACE GATHERS** is a fellowship group that meets monthly. The next gathering will be on **January 15 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.

**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 **January 19 at 6 pm** in the lounge.

**BOOKWORMS** will meet on **January 26 at 2 pm** in the lounge to discuss *Killers of a Certain Age* by Deanna Raybourn.

**JUGGLING ACT** - Our next gathering will be on **January 27, 2026 at 5:30 pm** at The Garrison. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**SAVE THE DATE - MAY 2, 2026!  
LET'S EAT AT CHURCH  
PROGRESSIVE DINNER**

Members will be given the chance to choose a room at Grace to host one course of the evening meal. Watch for more information!

**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**



**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.

**LISTENING WITH A SECOND EAR** - In the New Year we will continue our opportunity to listen to one another. All are invited to a time of sharing, dreaming, and conversation as we Listen with a Second Ear on Sunday, January 11. We'll gather in the front few pews immediately following worship.

**PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY WITH PR. BAILEY & JESUS (P B & J<sup>2</sup>)** - There is a lot on the calendar as we begin a new year, so PB&J<sup>2</sup> will return at the end of January. Mark your calendars for **January 26 at 11:30 a.m.** when we will take time to preview the upcoming Sunday's readings together. All are welcome to Peanut Butter & Jelly with Pastor Bailey & Jesus!



**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Thank you for your continued support of the many projects that the Grace Lutheran Church Women undertake each year. In September we shipped 12 quilts, 20 sewing kits, and 20 school kits to Lutheran World Relief. In addition to all of the kits we assembled we also made and donated 38 quilts to the Let's Build Bed project. With the help of many people we were able to share and spread God's love.

A big thank you to the congregation!

Jan Harris,  
Grace Lutheran Church Women

# 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.

**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](mailto:HeatherRHawn@gmail.com) to set up a time following a Sunday worship.



SCAN ME

**YOUTH COMMITTEE** will meet on January 7 at 7 pm in the auditorium.

**ATTENTION CONFIRMATION STUDENTS** Class will resume on January 11.

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS WRAP-UP!** Thank you to everyone who donated a gift and to those that joined us on December 10 during Advent worship to wrap gifts for Community Christmas. All of your help made the job go quickly and now we will be able to deliver beautifully wrapped gifts to members of our community. Your generosity has helped to make the Christmas season bright for members of our community.



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED ON NOVEMBER 15 FOR THE CHURCH WORK DAY!** Thanks to all of your hands we were able to wipe down woodwork, sweep the pews, remove old carpet from sacristy and hallway, clean the window wells outside the building and trim hydrangeas. Without the following hands these jobs would have taken longer than one morning: Joyce Havens, Tanya Schling, Annette Fisher, Brenden Fisher, Ruthann & Dave House, Becky Seibert, Jim Post, Greg Jess, the Michles' family, Steve Shimer, and Bill Smith. An additional thank you to Greg Jess for removing the old carpet from the office and to Jerry Moses and his crew from Fremont Floor Covering for installing new carpeting in the office and the Sacristy.

# FIRST QUARTER BIRTHDAYS

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

January 1	Joyce Wickert	2375 McGormley Rd.
January 2	Ardis Curlis	720 Tucker Rd.
January 4	Gary Willey	2737 N. River Rd.
January 6	Mary Kay Farrell	11579 SW 72nd Cir. Ocola FL 34476
January 6	Jan Serwin	1997 E. State St.
January 8	Gregg Kinsey	2019 Elm Dr.
January 9	Carole Miller	1830 Port Clinton Rd.
January 12	Jan Harris	2040 S. Main St., Clyde
January 17	James Rosenberger	2920 N. St. Rt. 19
January 18	Sharon Watkins	1547 Emmett Dr.
January 19	Linda Armstrong	2124 Martin Dr.
January 19	Beverly Bradford	1328 Circle Dr.
January 25	Margaret McGue	1545 Buckland Ave.
January 25	Marleen Savage	136 Briarwood Cir.
January 26	Timothy Hart	122 Briarwood Cir.
January 30	Patricia Rife	5212 St. Rt. 101, Clyde
February 2	Cynthia Auxter	229 N. Main St., Lindsey
February 3	Sandra Burmeister	4221 Fangboner Rd.
February 6	Dorothy Dierksheide	1247 N. River Rd., Rm. 509
March 1	Steven Lindsay	2240 Smith Rd.
March 1	Anne Richardson	817 Vargas Ct.
March 7	Jerry Letzring	171 E. Co. Rd. 109
March 8	Carol Klohn	1247 N. River Rd., Rm. 219
March 13	Ruth Auxter	112 Briarwood Cir.
March 19	Scott Farrell	11579 SW 72nd Cir. Ocola FL 34476
March 20	Ronald Tuckerman	1055 Co. Rd. 289
March 26	Diane Berryman	1105 Arlington St.
March 26	Benjamin Cooley	1611 Ell Dr.
March 26	Nancy McKeever	1451 Oak Harbor Rd., Lot 3B
March 27	Norman Rife	5212 St. Rt. 101, Clyde
March 31	Donna Garner	140 Thomas Dr.

## 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 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.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** – Minutes Summary from December 8, 2025

- **MISSIONS/OUTREACH:** Did not meet
- **WORSHIP:** No Report
- **PROPERTY:** RSS Security Review reports that software is still needed for view port. The tv monitor has been installed in the office. Thank you to everyone who helped with “Work Day”. A thank you to Jerry Moses and his team for installing the donated carpet in the Sacristy. A thank you also to John Burmeister for repairing the “host” container and making the Advent candle stands.
- **STEWARDSHIP:** It was reported that the 2026 pledge amounts are encouraging. Plans to meet periodically in early 2026 and monthly from September on as the new Stewardship Campaign unfolds. Beginning to brainstorm for new committee members.
- **Youth:** Bell Ringing took place at Walmart on December 14. A Trip to see the Lights Before Christmas at the Toledo Zoo also took place on December 14. On December 29, a *Twilight Takeover* is scheduled for a free hangout event for you and families. The Children’s Christmas Program will be at the Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m.

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

**NEW BABY**

*November 13 - Wesley Neil King,  
Child of Michele & Derek King*

*Happy Anniversary*

*Celebrating 50 or more years of wedded bliss!*

- January 6, 1973 - Bill & Ruth Auxter,  
112 Briarwood Cir.*
- January 29, 1972 - Gary & Louise Sam,  
6485 H. Harbor Rd. Marblehead, 43440*
- 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 16, 1963 - Larry & Linda Beck,  
19 Fox Run Dr.*
- March 1, 1969 - Thomas & Patricia Appleby,  
2401 Buckland Ave.*
- March 17, 1973 - Dan & Carol Polter,  
1015 N. Co. Rd. 220*



**FOR CHRISTMAS ON  
DECEMBER 25 AND 26, 2025  
& FOR NEW YEAR'S ON  
JANUARY 1, 2026**

*With Sympathy*

Steven Swope

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Clayton J. Bailey, Senior Pastor  
pastorcbailey@gmail.com  
Maureen Pump, Lay Minister  
maureenpump2022@gmail.com  
Denise Biddle, Finance/HR Administrator  
gracefremont@yahoo.com  
Tricia Dabrunz, Office Administrator  
dabrunztricia@yahoo.com  
Heather Hawn, Youth Minister  
HeatherRHawn@gmail.com  
Andrea Hirt, Director Noah's Ark Preschool  
noahsark.fremont@gmail.com

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## WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday - 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday - 9:00 a.m.

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## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 4 pm  
Friday: 9 am - 1 pm.



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING  
INFORMATION FOR OUR EMAIL  
ANNOUNCEMENTS IS  
WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 14, 2026.**

**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.)*

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

	<h1>2026</h1>		 <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>			<p>4:00 Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering/Bridge of Hope Food Pantry Collection</p>
<p><b>NOISY OFFERING/BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION</b> 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kid's Zone</p>	<p>9:00 Project Day 1:00 Bible Study with Maureen 6:00 Pack 302 Den Meeting 7:00 Dartball, Away</p>		<p><b>SPIRIT RETURNS</b> 5:00 SLAM with Maureen 6:00 Missions/Outreach Meeting 7:00 Youth Committee Meeting</p>	<p>11:30 Soup Kitchen</p>		<p>4:00 Worship/Communion</p>
<p>9:00 Worship/Communion/Kid's Zone 10:15 Listening with a Second Ear With Pr. Bailey 10:15 Confirmation</p>	<p>1:00 Bible Study with Maureen 6:00 Pack 302 Den Meeting 6:00 Executive Committee 7:00 Church Council 7:00 Dartball, Away</p>	<p>11:30 Staff Development, Office Closed</p>	<p><b>NOON - DEADLINE FOR ANNOUNCEMENT INFORMATION</b> 5:00 SLAM with Maureen 6:00 Youth Activities</p>	<p>11:30 Soup Kitchen 6:00 Grace Gathers at The Chateau Vineyard &amp; Winery, Helena</p>		<p>4:00 Worship/Communion/Food Pantry Challenge</p>
<p><b>FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE</b> (canned soup or fruit &amp; crackers) 9:00 Worship/Communion/Kid's Zone 10:15 Confirmation 1:00 Pack 302 Ice Skating meet at Fremont Ice Rink</p>	<p>1:00 Bible Study with Maureen 6:00 Spousal Grief Support 7:00 Dartball, Home</p>	<p>2:30 Joy Circle</p>	<p>5:00 SLAM with Maureen 6:00 Youth Activities</p>	<p>11:30 Soup Kitchen</p>		<p>4:00 Worship/Communion</p>
<p>9:00 Worship/Communion/Kid's Zone 10:15 Confirmation</p>	<p>11:30 - PB &amp; J<sup>2</sup>, Dining Room 1:00 Bible Study with Maureen 2:00 Bookworms, Lounge 6:00 Pack 302 Parent Meeting 7:00 Dartball, Away</p>	<p>5:30 Juggling Act at The Garrison</p>	<p>5:00 SLAM with Maureen 5:00 Bible Study with Pr. Bailey 6:00 Youth Activities</p>	<p>11:30 Soup Kitchen</p>		<p>4:00 Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering/Bridge of Hope Food Pantry Collection</p>

## SERVING IN WORSHIP: JANUARY 2026

*\*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
JANUARY 3 & 4	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	T. SCHARDT	W. BAILEY	————
	9:00	K. MICHLES	D. & R. COOPER	J. GANGWER	M. NOSSAMAN	J. DORR	J. OVERMYER	M. GEDEON P. KISER
JANUARY 10 & 11	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	C. MILLER	W. BAILEY	————
	9:00	D. MICHLES	K. BURMEISTER J. GUTHRIE	L. & J. OVERMYER	T. SCHARDT	H. BIDDINGER	B. PRASUHN	C. BOUCHER J. BURMEISTER
JANUARY 17 & 18	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	W. BAILEY	W. BAILEY	————
	9:00	B. ROLLINS	S. BURMEISTER R. HAYNES	D. & C. POLTER	B. SEIBERT	J. BURMEISTER	T. SCHLING	W. COOPER C. STAR
JANUARY 24 & 25	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	T. SCHARDT	W. BAILEY	————
	9:00	T. MICHLES	L. & B. MCELFRESH	D. ZILLES	K. LINDSAY	P. RUTHERFORD	K. WATKINS	G. JESS P. KISER
JANUARY 31 & FEBRUARY 1	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	C. MILLER	W. BAILEY	————
	9:00	————	V. OHMS P. PELPHREY	M. WIDMER	P. RUTHERFORD	H. SEIBERT	B. BRADFORD	T. MICHLES J. LETZRING
FEBRUARY 7 & 8	4:00	————	T. O'BRIEN	————	————	W. BAILEY	W. BAILEY	————
	9:00	————	T. SCHLING K. WATKINS	S. WATKINS	M. HAWN	M. NOSSAMAN	S. BRICKNER	M. GEDEON C. BOUCHER