

Welcome to  
**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
in Lent**



**February 28 & March 1, 2026**

**WELCOME, NOISY OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

During the Confession, you are invited to take on a posture of reverence. If you are able you may kneel, sit forward and lean on the pew in front of you, or remain seated.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots  
out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Gracious God,

**C:** **Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P:** For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
Gracious God,

**C:** **Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**A:** For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
Gracious God,

**C:** **Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

A: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

A: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**C: Amen.**

*Please stand as we sing our Gathering Song.*

**GATHERING SONG**

ELW # 666

***WHAT WONDEROUS LOVE IS THIS***

**THE GREETING**


P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**C: And also with you!**

## A CANTICLE FOR LENT

*The Congregation is invited to sing the refrain, while Pastor sings the verses.*

*Refrain*



Keep in mind that Je - sus Christ has died for us and is ris - en from the  
dead. He is our sav - ing Lord; he is joy for all a - ges.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST READING

## GENESIS 12:1-4A

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

**R:** The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

## ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**R:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.


*On Sunday.*

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*Following the Children's moment, children in pre-k through 5th grade are invited to gather in the Sunday School room for an activity. They will return to worship before communion.*

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## READING OF THE GOSPEL

JOHN 3:1-17

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

<sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him,

“Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

<sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

<sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’

<sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except

the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **TODAY’S REFLECTION**

*REV. CLAYTON J. BAILEY*

*On Sunday.*

## **THE AFTERWORD**

*Middle & High School Youth are invited following the reflection to meet in the Dining Room.*

*They will connect with the message for the day and spend time in prayer. The youth will return following the offering hymn.*

*Please stand.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**ELW # 323**

### ***GOD LOVED THE WORLD***

## **AN AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH**

P: Together let us reaffirm our faith in the crucified and risen Christ.

A: When nation rises against nation, and kingdom against kingdom,  
the end is not violence:

P: For there is a God of resilient, redeeming love, and the Brighter Purpose is at work in the shadows, and the darkness cannot smother it.

**C: Lord, we believe, strengthen our timid faith.**

A: When there are earthquakes, famines and pestilences, and collisions among the stars, the end is not chaos:

P: God the Creator of the heavens and the earth has not forsaken us, and harmony will again break out and gather to hasten towards consummation.

**C: Lord, we believe, strengthen our timid faith.**

A: When believers are arrested and abused, dragged before kings and governors, the end is not injustice:

P: The Holy Spirit is always with you in all your trials and travail, and words will be given to confound your adversaries and shake the gates of hell.

**C: Lord, we believe, strengthen our timid faith.**

A: When parents, brothers, sisters, relatives or friends, betray you even unto death, the end it not alienation:

P: The crucified Christ will reconcile all things seen and unseen, and the glorious finale is much nearer than when you first believed.

**C: Lord, we believe, strengthen our timid faith.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

*At this time you are welcome to share the Peace of Christ with those around you. Following the Sharing of the Peace you may be seated.*

## **THE OFFERING AND OFFERING MUSIC**

# CHOIR ANTHEM

Dale Grotenhuis

## FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

*Please stand as you are able.*

### OFFERING SONG

ELW # 325

## I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME

### OFFERING PRAYER

**A:** Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth,

**C:** **Your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**


### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## THE PROPER PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P:** God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

A: As our Savior Christ has taught us, together we are bold to pray.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

## AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*At Grace, all are welcome to the Table of the Lord. At the ushers invitation, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine. Grape juice is offered as an additional substitute. As you return to your seat using the side aisle, there is a basket to dispose of your individual communion cup. Those who would like a blessing are also welcome to come forward. Simply ask Pastor for a blessing instead of taking communion.*

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

ELW # 759

### ***MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE***

*After all have communed, you will be invited to stand.*

## **TABLE BLESSING**

**P:** The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A:** Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**P:** Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
bless you now and always.

**C:** **Amen.**

***LIFT HIGH THE CROSS***

**DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace.

**P:** Believe the good news.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!** You are God's gift to us today. Please introduce yourself to the pastor and come worship with us again.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Our Sunday worship is live streamed on Facebook.

**DRIVE-IN CHURCH** - If you are joining us on Sunday in the parking lot please tune your radio to 90.3 FM.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our daughter Sarah Luse, by Barry and Jan Luse.

**THE RADIO BROADCAST** is given as a gift to the congregation. **(Radio Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday morning at 9:30 am on Eagle 99.1. Anyone wishing to sponsor a radio broadcast [cost is \$72.50], should contact the church office.)**

**THIS WEEK AS YOU PRAY** please remember: Terry, Diane Berryman, Rae Ann Cooper, Kristen Brown, William Damschroder, Peggy Dorr, Donna Garner, Ken Hirt, Debbie Porter, Duane Pump, Tim Rutherford, Karen Sabiers, Julie Stawowy, Melissa Toker, and Connie Wasserman.

**HOSPITAL VISITS!** If you, or a member of your family, are in the hospital, please call the church office and let us know.

**HEARING DEVICES** are available at the Usher's station at the back of the Sanctuary. Please return after worship so that they can be charged and ready for the next service.

**PRAYER LIST REQUESTS** - If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer and would like to be added to our prayer list, please write their name on the back of our *Welcome Cards*. You are welcome to indicate what prayers are needed, i.e. "has an upcoming surgery" etc. Names submitted for our prayer list will remain on the list for four (4) weeks. Our goal is to keep the prayer list ever flowing and as up to date as possible.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday - Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm and Friday from 9 am - 1 pm.

**SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWSLETTER** should be sent to Tricia in the office at [dabrunztricia@yahoo.com](mailto:dabrunztricia@yahoo.com)

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**THE NOISY OFFERING** will be received this weekend at both services. The noisy offering collected this weekend will be given to Bridge of Hope Food Pantry.

**BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION** will take place at both services this weekend. Your donations may be placed in the shopping carts located in the Narthex and at the Baker Street entrance. Thank you for your help.

**SPOUSAL GRIEF SUPPORT** will meet on *March 16 at 6 pm* in the lounge. If you are grieving the loss of your spouse and could use the support of others experiencing the same loss, then please consider joining this group.

**JUGGLING ACT** - Ladies do you feel like you are always juggling the demands of life? Sometimes it's nice to gather with others that are juggling the same demands around a meal that you did not have to prepare. This group meets at 5:30 pm on the fourth Monday of each month at The Garrison. Our next gathering will be March 24. If you plan to attend please call the church office.

**BOOKWORMS** will meet on *March 23 at 2 pm* in the lounge to discuss *The Housemaid* by Fredia McFadden.

**THE PROJECT DAY GROUP** will once again make quilts for the Let's Build Beds Project in September 2026 and Lutheran World Relief. They need FLAT bed sheets to use as the back of the quilts. These may be new or gently used (no holes or stains. Please drop off the sheets to the church office or place them in the shopping carts. Thank you for supporting our local and Lutheran World Relief projects. If you are interested in helping to sew quilts the group meets the first and third Mondays at 9 am in the dining room.

### **FOR OUR YOUTH**

**KIDS ZONE** - Toddlers - 5th graders are invited to join Penny Russell and Cornelia Star following the Children's Message for a short lesson and activity. They will return to worship before communion. If your child does not wish to participate they return to their seat following the Children's Message.

**AFTERWORD** for our Middle & High School youth it's not the last word, just the next step. Students are invited following the sermon to connect with message of the day and pray. They will return to worship during the offering hymn.

**ATTENTION PARENTS** - Do you want to keep your children busy during worship, but you don't want take your child out of the sanctuary? Please check out our new play area in front of the chapel. There are activities, toys to play with, and books to read while you join us for worship. If you feel that you need to take your children out of the sanctuary there is a nursery with live audio of our service so you don't miss out on worship.

**LIFT**

**BACKPACK BUDDIES NEEDS OUR HELP!** We are currently in need of the following items: oatmeal packets, Nutri-Grain bars, cold cereal, breakfast bars, Pop Tarts, individual mac-n-cheese cups, pasta cups, cans of soup, individual heat and eat soups, individual serving cups of peanut butter, cups of applesauce, fruit cups, sandwich crackers, pudding cups, cookies, Goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, chips, pretzels, granola bars, Teddy Grahams, microwave popcorn, Ritz crackers, Rice Krispie Treats, milk, yogurt, beef sticks, Oatmeal Cream Pies and peanuts. We are also accepting monetary donations. These gifts help us to fill in any gaps in donations. Your check should be made payable to LIFT and please write Backpack Buddies on the memo line.


 NWOS Eastern Conference


*The Way of Love*

**CONFIRMATION**  
*Retreat*

- ✔ Youth Led Worship
- ✔ Bible Study with Bishop Daniel
- ✔ Service Project
- ✔ \$5 per person for pizza & snacks

Participants are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item as an offering to help with our care package service project

 **MARCH 22, 2026**  
START AT 9 AM - 1:30 PM

 **ZION LUTHERAN**  
500 S Brentwood Dr,  
Gibsonburg, OH 43431

**SCAN TO RSVP/ATTEND** 

 Questions? Contact Pastor Stacy, St. John's Sandusky-  
Stacylauer@gmail.com or Pastor Matt Wheeler,  
St. John's Fremont-matthew.wheeler612@yahoo.com



**EASTER LILY**

Help us make the worship space festive for Easter by ordering a Lily in honor or in memory of a loved one. Plants are \$15.<sup>00</sup>. Orders, payment and wording for the bulletin must be submitted to the church office by Noon on March 16, 2026. Checks should be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church. Please write Easter Lily in the memo line.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PLANTS: \_\_\_\_\_

WORDING: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This form is also available by scanning the QR code. If you order online payments may be dropped off or mailed to the church office by March 16 at noon. Online payment is available on our website at [gracefremont.org](http://gracefremont.org) by clicking on the Vanco tab.



**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

**March 1 - 8, 2026**

Today: **NOISY OFFERING/BRIDGE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION**

9:00 - Worship/Communion/Kids Zone

10:15 - Confirmation

Monday: 9:00 - Project Day

11:13 - PB&J<sup>2</sup> with Pr. Bailey

1:00 - Bible Study with Maureen

6:00 - Pack 302 Meeting

Tuesday: -----

Wednesday: 5:15 - Lenten Supper

6:30 - Mid-Week Lent Worship

Thursday: 11:30 - Soup Kitchen

Friday: -----

Saturday: 4:00 - Worship/Communion/Noisy Offering/BOH Food  
Pantry Collection

Sunday: 9:00 - Worship/Communion/Kids Zone

10:15 - Confirmation

10:15 - Listening with a 2<sup>nd</sup> Ear with Pr. Bailey

12:30 - LIFT Board Meeting at St. John's

**WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 129**

**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**SATURDAY 4 PM**

**GREETER:  
NARTHEX** Thomas O'Brien

**READER** Tanya Schardt

**COMMUNION  
ASSISTANT** Wendy Bailey

**SUNDAY 9 AM**

**ACOLYTES** Bailey Rollins

**GREETER:  
NARTHEX** Dave & Rae Ann  
Cooper

**GREETER:  
BAKER ST.** Dan & Carol  
Polter

**WORSHIP  
ASSISTANT** Mary  
Nossaman

**READER** John Burmeister

**COMMUNION  
ASSISTANT** Beth Muffler

**DEACONS/  
CLOSERS** Cornelia Star  
Tracy Michles

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# Grace Lutheran Church

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*Called to Present the Light of Christ!*