



# Grace Notes

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH AT  
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, CASTALIA, OH

January 2025

## Ministering Matters

### Love

The meaning of love is strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties. It encompasses a range of strong and positive emotional and mental states, from the deepest interpersonal affection to the simplest pleasure. Love is often considered to be one of the most powerful emotions, and it can have a profound impact on our lives. Just like loving God.

We have the capacity to love one another. We have the need to love one another. We have the courage to love one another. We know that God loves us, and gives us the capacity, need, and courage to love Him. We are saved by grace. We receive this grace from God because He loves us. Grace means the favor of God and the acceptance of God that we receive without any work on our part. We have faith that God loves us, and we cannot be saved until we give up trying to save ourselves.

Jesus is the Christ; he is alive, he is the love we so desperately need. Love is a personal experience that is different for each person, but we find our connectiveness in our love for God.

Life is the one thing we have to give – our life in Christ. We want to spend our time loving God and loving each other.

"For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."  
Handel's Messiah.

And so, my friends in Christ, remember that God loves us and sent his only Son to live and die for us so that we will have salvation.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Minister Beth*

## MINISTRY UPDATES

**COMMUNITY MEAL** Thank you to our excellent Property Team, our new stove purchased through a grant of \$4000 from the Erie County Grant Foundation was up and running for the Community Meal this month. The burner top reduced cook time by 60% and the convection ovens were much more efficient and cooked the potatoes more evenly than our old model. A gentleman from the community was kind to donate his time to add a textured ceiling to cover imperfections and it looks great! (Thank you Eric.) They worked to get on a new coat of paint and new LED overhead lights will be installed once they arrive. Thank you to all who helped with this BIG (and HEAVY) project!

We served 190 at the meal this month. The applesauce we made in October for God's Work-Our Hands Day was a hit. Thank you also for the leftover cookies from the cookie walk to share with our families.

Menu for January 8th: Turkey Tetrazzini, Cole Slaw, Roll, and Dessert

**GRACE'S TABLE FOOD PANTRY-** Drive-thru pantry was held on Saturday, December 21, 2024 and boxes were distributed to 53 families. Families and individuals who came to the pantry were provided with items to prepare a Christmas Meal. Many thanks to the congregation and the community for supporting our Food Pantry. Donations are always needed, and volunteers are always welcomed!

**SEWING MINISTRY** - Assembling and sewing for the Quilt Ministry will resume the first two Wednesdays of January. If anyone would be willing to sew items at home, please contact Jean Smith at 419-901-0816. We'd be happy to provide fabric. We just need you to do the sewing. The dimensions for tops and liners are 60" X 80. The dimensions for backs are 64" X 84".

**PROJECT SHARE** - The Board of Directors of Project Share cannot thank the congregation of Grace enough for the use of storage space, set-up and distribution, plus all the extra support in terms of donations, and especially patience with the disruption for a month. We can be so grateful to live in a community where such an outpouring of love and support exists. This year 83 families comprised of 355 individuals were served through gifts of clothing, personal items, and grocery vouchers. Words of thanks and tears of thankful hearts abound when families pick up their bags of hope.



# HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

BETTY MEGGITT: The Commons of Providence, 5000 Providence Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870  
 TODD MILLER: Providence Care Center, 2025 Hayes Avenue, Sandusky, OH 44870  
 ALICE LEHMAN: Harborview Apartments, 115 Franklin Street, Apt. 401, Sandusky, OH 44870  
 NORMA SHELLEY: Commons Asst. Living, 5000 Providence Drive, Rm. 202 Sandusky, OH 44870

*Please note: This list is comprised of individuals who have authorized their residence information to be published. If you are a member of Grace and would like to be placed on the homebound list, please contact Beth Kieffer in the office at 419-684-5059.*

Thanks to all who supported Margaretta Township's Wreaths Across America where the community recently laid over 1000 wreaths honoring our veterans. As we look forward to 2025, all wreaths sponsored prior to January 15, 2025 will be matched one for one. This is the biggest promotion all year and can be sponsored at the cemetery office, 407 Bardwell Rd, Castalia, or online at [www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/OH0370](http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/OH0370).

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2024

Operating Offerings: \$21,154.00  
 Operating Expenses: \$13,579.00  
 Operating Fund Balance: \$43,678.00  
 Construction Offerings: \$ 3,100.00  
 Other Designated Giving: \$ 7,974.00

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Copies of the complete and detailed financial statements are available for review in the Church office.



### "Time"

Time is  
 too slow for those who wait,  
 too swift for those who fear,  
 too long for those who grieve,  
 too short for those who rejoice.  
 But for those who love,  
 time is eternity

--Henry Van Dyke


**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Be sure to call or email your information for the weekly bulletin announcements to Brenda in the church office, [macdonaldb58@gmail.com](mailto:macdonaldb58@gmail.com) by **9AM on Thursday** at the latest. **Newsletter** announcements are due no later than the 20th of the month.

*To have your prayer request placed on the Grace Prayer Chain, please contact Lynne Yetter at 419-603-6759.*





# JANUARY

S	M	T	W	
			Happy New Year!! 	1
5 WORSHIP – 9AM	6	7 Morning Prayer - 6:15am	8 Choir - 7PM Sewing 9-11AM Community Meal 5-6PM	Mo
12 WORSHIP – 9AM Sunday School - 10:15AM Catechism - 10:15AM	13 Dartball - HOME - 7:30pm	14 Morning Prayer 6:15AM Circle 3 - 1:30PM Circle 5 - 7PM	15 Choir - 7PM Sewing 9-11AM	Mo
19 WORSHIP – 9AM Sunday School - 10:15AM Catechism - 10:15AM	20	21 Morning Prayer 6:15AM Church Council - 7PM	22 Choir - 7PM	Mo
26 WORSHIP – 9AM Sunday School - 10:15AM Catechism - 10:15AM	27 Dartball - AWAY- Bellevue - 7:30pm	28 Morning Prayer 6:15AM	29 Choir - 7PM	Mo

## JANUARY READERS

- 5. Brenda Ried
- 12. tbd
- 19. tbd
- 26. tbd

## JANUARY FLOW

- 5. Jane Ann and Martha C
- 12. OPEN
- 19. OPEN
- 26. OPEN

# 2025

T	F	S
2 Morning Prayer 6:15AM	3	4
9 Morning Prayer 6:15AM	10	11
16 Morning Prayer-6:15AM	17	18 Food Pantry 9-10:00AM
23 Morning Prayer-6:15AM	24	25
30 Morning Prayer 6:15AM		

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1. Brion Ronto
2. Karen Brandal
6. Paula Klunk, Bradley Yetter
9. Lydia Churchill
12. Joanne Shelley
17. Pete Klunk
21. Dylan Hermes
22. James Churchill
24. Grant Churchill, Nancy Johnson
29. Carolyn Lickfelt, Rhonda Rice
31. Mathew Yetter



<u>MEMBERS</u>
Summings

## JANUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

Donna Sessler  
Lydia Churchill  
Dean Koch  
Bev Mix  
Gabriel Yetter  
Nikki Gysan  
Robin Koch

Marion Perkins  
Henry Churchill  
Kate Yetter  
Richard Henry  
Becky Sessler  
Robert Gysan

Terry Perkins  
Ethan Ronto



Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting  
November 19, 2024

**In Attendance:**

Minister Beth Kieffer, David Bodi, Gary Borchardt, Becky Sessler, Jordan Kuns, Jim, Kieffer, Barb Rohrbacher, Becky Henry, Joan Lander, Jim Floro, and Larry Krogh.

The meeting was called to order by President David Bodi. The Mission Statement recited.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Minutes from the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting reviewed. Jordan Kuns moved to accept the minutes. Motion seconded by Becky Henry. Motion passed.

**Financial Report:**

Written report provided by Jordan Kuns. General offerings for the month were \$13,038. Construction offerings were \$3,695. Additional giving totaled \$1,650. The operating surplus is now \$38,307. \$5,000 was applied towards the principle of the construction loan bringing the balance to \$35,000. \$2,000 in Noisy Offering donations were given in \$500 increments to Grace's Table, Margaretta Township Fire Department, Back To The Wild, and the Erie County Humane Society.

Becky Sessler moved to accept the financial report. Motion seconded by Joan Lander. Motion passed.

**Minister's Report:**

Minister Beth reports she did 6 hospital visits as well as 6 nursing home visits. Two of those visits included communion. She has attended two text studies with a group of ecumenical colleagues for text study and sermon preparation. She continues to attend Circles 3 & 5 meetings. She has started her monthly SAM check-in meetings and continues her Diakonia studies. She meets weekly with her SAM supervisor, Pastor Chris Young. Minister Beth also continues to meet with the Transition Team, plan worship, and oversee copyright reporting.

**Ministry Teams:**

**Stewardship & Finance –**

No report.

**Worship –**

Written report provided by Barb Rohrbacher. Rally for Reformation was held on October 27<sup>th</sup> and went well. Several familiar faces were seen during worship. Just a reminder that Christmas Eve service will be December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. We will have transportation for those unable to drive or don't like to drive in the weather or after dark. The Sunday School Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> during service in lieu of the sermon. Take down of Christmas decorations will be on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> after service.

**Christian Education –**

Becky Henry reported that the children will be singing on Sunday, 11/24 during the service. Sunday School for those confirmed will begin on Sunday, 12/1. There will be no catechism on 12/22, 12/29, & 1/5.

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting  
November 19, 2024

**Community Outreach –**

Written report provided by Joan Lander. The community meal in November served 196 meals. Next meal scheduled on December 11th. Food Pantry was held on Saturday, November 16th. 65 families served. To date the sewing group has completed 27 quilts. Jean will be taking the machines to have them serviced during the month of December. 5 machines at \$45 each. They normally charge \$75 but are giving the church a break.

**Property –**

Jim Floro reported that the kitchen remodel is underway. The old stove was removed, and the new stove arrived on 11/14. New lights outside the Gathering Area to be installed by Matt Yetter. Per Larry, Hohler was here on 11/7 for their routine inspection. #3 boiler in need of repair. Parts are on order.

**Old Business:**

Congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, 12/8/24, immediately following worship.

**New Business:**

None.

**Announcements & Correspondence:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

Becky Sessler moved to adjourn. Becky Henry second the motion. Motion passed.

Council closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer and communion. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 17th @ 7 PM in The Gathering Area.

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 S. Washington Street  
Castalia, OH 44824

## **GRACE GROWS DISCIPLES.**

**Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we WORSHIP the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, WITNESS to God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ, WELCOME all into our community of faith.**

Our website address: [www.GraceCastalia.com](http://www.GraceCastalia.com)

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS: [macdonaldb58@gmail.com](mailto:macdonaldb58@gmail.com)

PHONE: 419-684-5059