

20 February 25

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Messenger



Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

I come from a family of storytellers. My Grandpa Brodbeck was a master. Even though I was only five when he died, his stories live on in my memory. Especially the one about the ghost of Eli. Any skill I have in this area comes from him.

His stories were mostly fictional involving characters he made up or events that were (very) loosely based on some news event. But he told them with such conviction and energy you always believed they were true.

Grandpa taught me about the power of a story. He did it unintentionally, of course, but I learned the lesson. A good story will capture your attention and through them people come together and relationships are built.

That's one of the reasons your faith story is so important. As you tell what God has done for you or through you, you capture the ears of people who need to hear what you have to share. And in your words, God captures their hearts.

2025 is the year of "R" for our Grace Congregation. In our acronym for Discipleship, "R" means "Re-telling your faith story." Throughout these months, we want to help you develop the ability and the confidence to tell your story of faith to those who need to hear it.

I can't wait to hear your story!

FEBRUARY OUTREACH CORNER

2025 TRIP TO LAUREL MISSION:

If you would be interested in learning more and possibly joining us for our trip to Laurel Mission this year, please reach out to Sandy Thompson: sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org or 937-399-6257. See signup sheet in the narthex as well.



SMI HAITI: During the month of February, we will be collecting money for the annual Rice and Beans Fundraiser for Haitian children led by Living Water Lutheran Church in Centerville OH. Haiti continues to be in a grave state of unrest and gang control and so many innocent people cannot meet even their basic needs. Would you consider a donation for Rice and

Beans to help feed the school children? Make a check out to Grace with SMI Haiti in the memo line. Or would you go one step further and consider sponsoring a child? For \$40/month you would support a child to attend school. This includes tuition, uniform, books, supplies and up to 4 meals per week. See the Narthex display for more information or go directly to the SMI Haiti website:

<https://www.smihaiti.org/donate> where can choose a specific child to sponsor.



ST JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY:

February is one of our months to serve at St John's Food Pantry on Wednesday mornings. If you are interested in helping to distribute food, please contact Judy Fredrich at 937-925-1177. They could also use fruit, soup, Ramen Noodles, Cereal, bread, toilet paper, soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste, etc. PLEASE PLACE IN ST JOHN'S GROCERY CART BY 2/23/25

FEBRUARY OUTREACH CORNER

LAND CRUISER FUNRAISER!



ONE PLUS GOD

They are raising \$48,000 by Sunday, September 28, 2025, to purchase a new Toyota Land Cruiser for ministry in Tanzania. Thanks to a special arrangement with the Tanzanian government, we can get a new vehicle at the cost of a quality used one! So far, we are 20% of the way to our goal.

Why a Land Cruiser?

- Reliable in Extreme Terrain: Reach remote villages, rain or shine.
- Versatile: Transport teams, equipment, or sick children to the hospital.
- Spacious: Reduces trips, making ministry more efficient.
- Durable: Built to last for years of mission use.
- Locally Maintained: The Tumaini parish will keep it in top condition.

Join Us! Your support will help us reach more people with the Gospel, respond to emergencies, and empower mission teams. Every gift matters!

NALC 2020 VISION



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

20
20
VISION

Thanks to your generous support Grace has raised \$56,755 as of 12/31/24 towards our goal of \$60,000 by the end of 2025. This leaves us with \$3,245 to raise

over the next 12 months. We are so grateful for your ongoing support in this effort and if we can continue this commitment, we could easily exceed our goal.

You can donate through the Grace app or our website- (www.grace-nalc.org). On the website, you can find the link in the banner at the top of the home page. You also can mark your check or offering envelope for the 20/20 Vision Campaign. Any gift, no matter the size, makes an impact.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY



Welcome Lorenzo Thomas, our new Director of Youth Ministry!

If you haven't met Lorenzo yet, please introduce yourself. Lorenzo began as our new Director of Youth Ministry here at Grace on 12/2/2024 and is off to a great start. You got to hear him preach if you were here on January 19th.

Lorenzo is a native of Youngstown, Ohio and has been living in the Dayton area since 2022. Ordained in 2018, Lorenzo has served the church as a healthcare and military chaplain as well as the settled pastor of a local rural congregation. He is a bi-vocational pastor who is currently working on a Master of Science in clinical mental health counseling at Wright State University. In his free

time, you can usually find Lorenzo enjoying the great outdoors hiking, kayaking or running a 5k. Lorenzo and Anastasia are dog lovers and belong to a pack of four: two mastiffs they call "the twins", a crazy German Shorthair Pointer and a little beloved Affenpinscher. He and his wife are also active members of the Dayton German club where they enjoy participating in German language lessons, sampling delicious food and showing off their trachten (traditional German clothing). Lorenzo is a foodie and self-professed coffee snob who is always ready to share a recipe or a hot cup of joe! His favorite theologian since seminary has been the pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

YOUNG AT HEART

We enjoyed Christmas caroling at Heart and Home Nursing home to finish 2024. Early January took us to the Historic American Packard Museum and Christian fellowship at the Spaghetti Warehouse.



LaComedia Dinner Theatre brought us "Ghost" the musical on February 14th Valentine's day treat. "Jersey Boys" will be the next show we will attend. I have one (1) free ticket to each LaComedia event for anyone who would like to go with the group for the first time. If you are interested, see Roger Bentz.

On February 2nd, we will attend Joe and Jessica at the High Street United Methodist Church Sanctuary Series at 3 p.m. On February 23th at Covenant Presbyterian Church we will attend a concert by Eric T. Barga and Friends at 3 p.m. Join us to meet new friends or strengthen friendships in our future adventures. If you have any questions, please contact Roger Bentz or Sonya Ryhal.

The page is framed by a vertical border on both sides, featuring various heart-shaped cutouts. On the left side, there are hearts in shades of orange, red, and pink, some with a glittery texture and others with a striped pattern. On the right side, there are hearts in shades of red, pink, and orange, some with a textured, felt-like appearance and others with a striped pattern. The background of the page is white.

*The Joy Guild
is inviting you to our*

Valentine Celebration of God's love

DATE: February 11, 2025 (Tuesday)

TIME: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

WHERE: Grace Fellowship Hall

All are welcome to join us for this
special celebration of God's love.

Let's share the Joy of Fellowship,
Fun, Refreshments and Music!

*Please sign up at
"Sign Up Central!"*

WOMEN OF GRACE BIBLE STUDY

The Women of Grace are together working their way through a book called Growing in Christ. This Bible Study for Women of Grace began in mid-January and will finish up in early April. If you want to attend there's still time to do so.

Just contact dmstelzer@gmail.com to get more information and to register. The cost of the book is \$7. See the note below from our Facilitator about this book study.

Growing In Christ
Monday Evenings - 13 Week Course
Jan. 13 - April 7
6:30 - 7:30 PM
Grace Lutheran Church

A Message from Our Facilitator for this Book Study
"Because we are all children of God, we have the potential to live the rest of our lives in victorious obedience to Him. His Word will build you up in faith. I invite you to join with other women of Grace for a closer look at Words that can sustain us - no matter what. My name is Nora C. Give me the privilege of exploring the Word with you. I know it will benefit you for the rest of your days on earth."
Cost of Book will be \$7. *Growing in Christ* covers a range of relevant topics, from assurance of salvation to getting involved with the church to sharing your faith. This educational and encouraging resource is designed to help you master the fundamentals of the Christian life and dive deeper into Scripture.

Women's Bible Study

Women of Grace Event

Register by contacting
dmstelzer@gmail.com

THANK YOU LETTER

I would like to sincerely thank those members of Grace Lutheran church for their kind cards I've received during my illness and to the 9 Grace members who came and sang Christmas Carols to me—that sure made my day and I'm very grateful to all of you for remembering me!!!!

Blessings to all!!

Minola Bernardi

Are you looking for information about upcoming events at Grace?

HERE ARE SOME OPTIONS FOR A MONTHLY CALENDAR:

1.

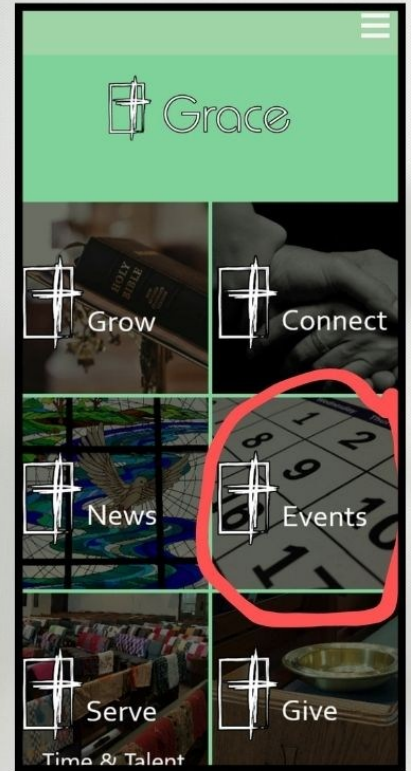
The Bulletin Board in the Narthex

2.

The Grace App:
click on the events tab on the home page

3.

The events tab on the website:
www.grace-nalc.org



For a weekly calendar, see the home page of the website, scroll down about halfway. It looks like image below.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

This Week at Grace JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY 1/5/25	MONDAY 1/6/25	TUESDAY 1/7/25	WEDNESDAY 1/8/25	THURSDAY 1/9/25	FRIDAY 1/10/25	SATURDAY 1/11/25
BREAKFAST BREAK 8:00 AM WORSHIP (S) 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOLS FOR ALL AGES 10:45 AM WORSHIP (S) 8:00 PM COMMUNITY GROUP (P)	OFFICE CLOSED	8:00 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY (P) 11:30 AM STAFF MEETING (P) 7:00 PM CUB SCOUTS	10:00 AM HOPE GUILD 1:00 PM CHARITY GUILD 5:00 PM GRACE NOTES 7:00 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR	9:00 AM MISSION INC. 11:00 AM ADULT BIBLE STUDY 1:00 PM QUILTERS	8:00 PM COMMUNITY GROUP	8:00 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY (P) 9:30 AM SOUTHWEST OHIO MISSION DISTRICT MTD
SUNDAY 1/12/25	8:00 AM WORSHIP (S) 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 10:45 AM WORSHIP (S)		12-2 PM SUPER KID PRAYER WORKSHOP 8:00 PM COMMUNITY GROUP (P)			

Can also be found on the bulletin boards in main entrance and staff entrance as well in fellowship hall.

GUEST SPEAKER ATTENDS GRACE CHARITY MEETING

The Charity Guild of Grace had the pleasure of having Heather Townsend as our guest speaker at our January guild meeting. She was very interesting and had a wonderful talk explaining her ministry in a foreign country as a manager of a coffee grinding business, and also showing us many beautiful pictures of where all she has been in her ministry to the people. As a bonus, she stayed with us and helped us work on our pillows. It was a wonderful time of fellowship together and she was a blessing for us to have her attend our meeting.



Maxine Shroyer
co-chai

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



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Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace



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