

20 November 25

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Messenger



Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

I recently heard this quote: "If the devil can't make you bad, he will make you busy." Unfortunately, I don't know who first said this. It is powerful, isn't it?

If our lives were not already busy enough in these early autumn days, we are soon to be increasing our speed as we head into the end-of-year holiday season. There is so much to do, and so little time to do it! My morning news is already counting down the days until Christmas! To quote Charlie Brown: "Aaarrgghh!"

Many of us – me included – struggle with being "busy." The danger that lies therein is not having time for the most important things in life. When was the last time that you skipped your devotions because you were too rushed in the morning? What about not being able to properly serve at church because of "other" commitments? What about not praying because you don't have time?

We are told in Proverbs 21:5 that "the plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty." To be hasty means that you're hurried, you're in a rush. Ouch.

My prayer this holiday season for me and for you is that we might be able to apply Psalm 46:10: "Be still, and know that I am God." We can't be still if we're rushing around being "busy!" Help us, Lord!

NOVEMBER OUTREACH CORNER



Snow-vember Coat Drive: It's that time already for our annual coat drive for Snowhill School. We will be collecting new or like new winter coats for our friends at Snowhill School. Please watch for coat shaped tags in the Narthex in early November.

Each tag is for a specific child. PLEASE keep the tag with the coat donated. All donations are due back by November 16th. If you'd like to help but prefer not to do the shopping, see Sandy Thompson for options to donate and have someone else do the shopping for you.

Baskets of Grace: Our team will be collecting food items to prepare boxes and deliver these food boxes to needy families in our community for Thanksgiving. Please watch the Narthex for cards labeled with food items needed to fill the boxes/baskets and return these items by November 16th. Please only bring items identified on the cards. Please Contact Sally or Larry Cisler with any questions.



Interested in a taking a Mission Trip to Malawi? Have you ever considered going on a mission trip to Africa? The Malawi Orphan Care Project, based right here in Mansfield, Ohio, is currently recruiting for their 2026 mission trip to Malawi!

You may remember them from their Breakfast Break presentation in 2022, where they shared how they serve orphaned children in Eastern Africa through feeding programs, educational support, and personal care. Each year, they also lead a team to Malawi to work directly with the children and communities they support.

If you feel called to serve or are simply curious to learn more, now is a great time to start the conversation.

For more information or to express interest, please contact:

Sandy Thompson

Email: sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org

Phone: 937-399-6257



2025 OUTREACH IMPACT

GRACE OUTREACH IMPACT THIRD QUARTER 2025



Breakfast Break 3rd Quarter 2025: \$930 for Witt Campus Outreach



Six Grace members had fellowship with Snowhill kids during summer lunch program



Buy-A-Square Fundraise for Laurel Mission Team- \$750



A large Rubbermaid of School Supplies for Snowhill school teachers



Collected 15 cans of baby formula for Pregnancy Resource Clinic

QUILTER'S GUILD

The sewing Quilters' guild is already underway for the 2026 year. Three missions receive our quilts. We rely on donations for the quilts. If you or anyone you know who has material that they will not be using we would be happy to take it off your hands.

Thank you Quilters' guild.



FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The fall congregational meeting of our church will be held on Sunday, November 23 at 9:15 a.m. (during the Sunday School hour). This is the second of two annual meetings required in our Grace constitution.

The key mandatory items on the agenda are the election of members to the church council and endowment committee and the adoption of the 2026 ministry plan (budget). We also expect to have a few items from the denomination related to the modification of the constitution.

By the time you read this article you should have received a letter from Council President Steve Garrett that identified the names for the ballot and included a copy of the budget. If you did not receive this mailing, please notify the Grace office.

In addition to these agenda items, you will be updated on a number of ministries and issues within the congregation, including updates on our finances, the impact of the Endowment grants and more. Please make your attendance a priority!

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Scholars have long debated whether the Star of Bethlehem is a legend created by the early church or an actual miracle that marked the birth of Jesus. Is it possible that the star was a real historical event?

Join us in the Grace Community Center on Sunday evening, December 7 at 6 p.m. as we interact with an amazing documentary about the Star of Bethlehem. From the producers of The Passion of the Christ, this hour-long video explores the truth of Scripture and the historical evidence for God's existence as seen in the stars above. The video will be followed by a group discussion on what we have seen and heard.

We will provide the popcorn. You are invited to bring other movie snacks as you wish. But most of all bring your friends. This is designed as a community-wide event.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

On Tuesday, November 25 at 7 p.m. Grace will hold its annual Thanksgiving Worship service. This service is a great opportunity for you to pause before the busy-ness of the holiday season to reflect on the blessings of God through the previous year. The service will include a special open-mic time during with all those in worship will be invited to offer thanks to God for their individual blessings. Come you thankful people, come!

WOMEN OF GRACE

It's time to register in the narthex for Annual Women of Grace Luncheon & Ornament Exchange. This event will be in Grace's Fellowship Hall on Saturday December 13 from Noon – 2:15 pm. Each attendee should bring an ornament that is wrapped. Instruction on journaling will be provided along with a personal copy of a 52 Week Prayer Journal for Women which is free of charge thanks to Endowment Funds. A small donation to go toward the cost of lunch may be requested the day of the event. Registration closes November 29. Questions? Call Donna Stelzer at 937 902 0671.



***Saturday Dec 13
Noon – 2:15 at
Grace
Lutheran Church***

***During the month of November
be sure to register in the
Narthex at Grace to
participate in this event***

Note: Free Copy of the Prayer Journal for Women will be provided day of the event to attendees. Small Fee of \$10 may be charged the day of event toward the cost of the luncheon

AUCTION ITEMS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



The annual Grace Lutheran Charity Auction on Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 9:00 AM to Noon is fast approaching! Your auction items and your volunteer time are needed to make this year's auction equal to the success of past years! Please let us know what your hand-crafted auction items will be by Monday, November 24, to allow us time to process and organize for the event.

New this year is our request that you provide your estimate of the fair market value of your donated items. This is to remain in compliance with IRS regulations.

As in past years, your donation of items and time are vital to making the Auction the success it has always been. Your gifts of arts and crafts such as paintings, woodworking, quilting, sewing, stained glass or other unique items will make the event a success.

Emerge Recovery & Trade Initiative in Xenia is our mission partner this year. Emerge is a faith-based mission that helps those trapped by addiction to rebuild their lives through transformational and vocational pathways. Emerge achieve greater than average success by providing vocational training as well as addiction recovery with voluntary faith based teaching. In addition, Emerge empowers youth who are about to age out of foster care to develop vocational skills for their future. By combining faith-based teaching with skilled trades certifications, Emerge helps its clients start new lives and careers with a solid foundation. See their website at: emergecoverytrade.com

Please think about how you can make this year's auction a resounding success. Watch for a sign-up table in the Narthex and stay tuned for more information as we draw closer to December 6!

Contact Chris Norman to volunteer or donate: chris.norman@grace-nalc.org or by phone at 937.399.6257 extension 104. Or volunteer via the Time and Talent page on the Grace App!

PLEASE RETURN CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES BY NOV. 17

Hobby Lobby is a place to find quality items to pack in your shoeboxes! Just check out the **Operation Christmas Child signs** throughout the store.

DO NOT INCLUDE ---

- Soap
- Food, candy, or gum
- Toothpaste
- Used or damaged items
- Scary or war-related items
- Wearable traditional camouflage
- Seeds or organic matter
- Liquids
- Medication
- Money
- Breakable items
- Matches, fire starters, or aerosols
- Knives, saws, or razor blades

YOUNG AT HEART

Come join us for Christian joy and love as we go to Covenant Presbyterian Church concert series on Sunday, October 26th at 3 p.m., Bill Puck and the Mule Skinner Band.

On Friday, November 7th we will go to LaComedia Dinner Theater and see the musical Scrooge, the Christmas Show, we will be leaving the Grace parking lot at 9:45 a.m.

November 9th is the USA Finding Nemo at High Street Methodist Church at 3 p.m. On Sunday, November 16th is Christina Condon-Numerick, flutist. Lots of choices for You to join us.

Check the narthex for sign up sheets. Hope to see you there.

Roger Bentz and Sonya Ryhall-Kincaid

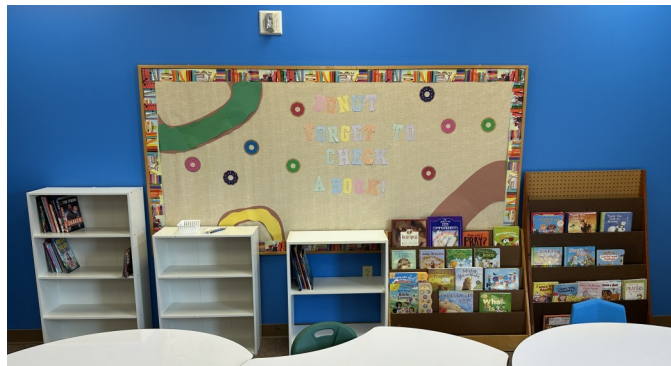
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

2025 BIBLE PRESENTATION



On Sunday, September 7th, we were honored to place new bible into the hands of our Preschoolers, Kindergarteners, 2nd graders, 5th graders and 9th graders(a toal of 15 children and 1 youth). Each bible is age-appropriate for the children. There was great excitement among the children!

OUR NEW CHILDREN'S LIBRARY



Through the generous gift from the Endowment Committttee and books from the Grace library, we now have a new Children's Library. It is located in the Children's Wing of the church, were children and families can check them out. There is a wide range of books for Preschoolers through Upper Elementary.

THANK YOU LETTER

Dear Card Ministry Team,

Thank you for all the wonderful sympathy cards after Bryan's passing. To be honest, I'm still getting used to seeing only my name on an envelope and not "Bryan and Beth". Your cards, prayers and words of encouragement have been a true blessing. I'm very thankful for my Grace family for supporting me during this challenging time.

With Much Gratitude,

Beth Szekacs

THANK YOU LETTER

Dear Grace Lutheran Church family,

I just wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for all the love and support you've shown me and my family during Bryan's illness and after he passed forward to heaven. Your prayers, cards, meals, and all the wonderful ways you've surrounded us during this time have been such a blessing.

I want to give a special thank you to Pastor Tom, Robert and Sandy Thompson, and to all the staff and volunteers for their incredible help during Bryan's memorial service. Your dedication made the day so meaningful and comforting. I also want to thank Bev Przyslulski and her team for providing such a delicious meal for our family afterward. It meant so much to us to have that nourishment and care. I'm still receiving compliments for our beautiful church, the service and our loving people. God used us to shine His light during that entire day.

Thank you all for being such a steadfast source of comfort and for sharing God's love with us in so many ways.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Beth Szekacs

NOW HIRING: NURSERY ATTENDANT

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is seeking a caring and dependable person(s) for our **Nursery Attendant(s)** to provide loving care for children (newborn–age 5) during Sunday worship and Sunday school. This part-time, paid position is approximately **5 hours on Sundays (7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.)**, with occasional additional hours as needed.

The ideal candidate(team) loves working with children, models a Christian witness, and helps create a safe, welcoming space for families to worship and grow in faith.

To learn more or apply, contact Sandy Thompson at sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org or 937-399-6257

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



www.grace-nalc.org 937.399.6257

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Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace



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