



JUNE
2026

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THE VOICE OF GRACE

An Affiliate of the North American Lutheran Church



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church • 100 E. Schrock Rd. • Westerville, OH 43081

Special Congregational Meeting Minutes May 17, 2026

• Call to Order & Opening Prayer

Lisa Kuhar called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm and Pastor Wendel opened the meeting with prayer

Purpose of the Meeting: Lisa stated that the sole purpose of this meeting was to approve the motion:

Council moves that the congregation approve moving forward with the proposed building renovations to create an educational childcare center (Grace Lutheran Children's Center), a larger fellowship hall and related renovations.

Ted Ray, so moved. Chris Hoch seconded.

A brief question and comment discussion was held.

Vote: A vote was held by secret ballot. There were 90 eligible voting members present. The motion passed with 69 votes yes and 21 votes no.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracey Nave, Council Secretary

Grace Website Gets an Update

After several months of work and preparation by the Outreach and Visibility Team and the SubSplash Onboarding team, an improved "Digital Billboard" in the form of an updated website has been added to our communication tools.

This update, funded by Mission Reserve funds in 2025, will carry Grace into the next 10 to 20 years and streamlines our email and text messages, group chats, Grace event notices, and volunteer management. All this is accomplished through a GraceApp and Search Engine Optimization (SEO).

If you haven't already done so, Download the app by logging onto - <http://get.theapp.co/v8jg> or scan the QR code. This app is packed with powerful content and resources to help you grow and stay connected.

You are now able to:

- Watch or listen to past sermons/services
- Stay up to date with Push Notifications
- Share you favorite services via facebook, or email
- Read the Bible • Sign up for events • Make a secure gift.



From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Dr. David Wendel

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. -Philippians 2:1-7

By the time you are reading this issue of the Voice newsletter, the congregational vote will have happened regarding development of the Grace Lutheran educational childcare center and renovations related to the center, new fellowship hall and kitchen upstairs and updating of our church facility. This will be the first significant vote of the congregation in my tenure as pastor.

Every "new" pastor serving a congregation approaches major votes with some hesitation, as voting sometimes creates hard feelings over decision-making. The only way to avoid that would be to "cast lots," as we heard recently in Acts, as the eleven disciples wanted to choose a replacement for Judas. Would we be happier in the church if we rolled dice and accepted the outcome, rather than voting? As under-shepherd, it seems worthwhile to share a few thoughts about congregational votes. In Philippians, St. Paul is writing to the congregation in Philippi about his desire that members of the body be "in full accord and of one mind." He encourages the congregation to do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility, to count others more significant than yourself, looking not only to your own interest, but also to the interest of others.

Was Paul writing here, expecting the Christians in Philippi to always agree about everything? Is that what Paul means by "being of the same mind?" Does life in a Christian congregation mean that we will always agree, always vote the same way, always be unanimous in decision-making?

We may wish that might be true, as no one in the church likes

Continued - From Pastor's Desk - Page 2

a divided congregational vote! But that's not reality in life or in the church! We may not always be of one mind with regard to the color of the paint, how to handle church finances or how we might vote on a particular issue. The truth is, our congregation is stronger when people speak their mind, ask questions and participate fully in congregational decision-making. Regardless, church votes will not always be unanimous, people will have different opinions, resulting in congregational decisions which an individual may or may not support.

What St. Paul is talking about in the above passage is that the members of the Body of Christ within a congregation will be of one mind, united in "the same love" in Christ Jesus, who emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, becoming a servant, for the sake of the whole Church. So, what does this mean in real life in a congregation?

First, apart from God's truth, being in community requires sacrifice and compromise. As we move forward, there will be the need for sacrifice and compromise. It's true in homes and families and it's true in the church. As I have guided a congregation through three major construction and renovation programs, the most valuable advice is that we approach the process in love and forbearance! We will not all get what we want—there will be give and take. However, along the way, we will all do the best we can to listen to one another, cooperate, and compromise as we move forward toward completion.

Second, sacrifice and compromise means at some point we may each have to yield our own opinion for the sake of the whole. As executive staff in the North American Lutheran Church, I was a participant in many important decisions which shaped and formed the NALC. I felt strongly about many issues and spoke honestly and straightforwardly. I agreed with some decisions and I disagreed with others, but I never expected that every decision would go the way I wanted. Still, executive staff and executive council were of one mind with regard to the love of Christ who gave Himself, His own life, for the unity and harmony of His Body, the Church. In this way we were in full accord and of one mind, to keep the Church moving forward.

And that brings me to the final point. When I visited Grace Lutheran Church, Westerville as NALC executive staff to facilitate the Fresh Eyes for Mission weekend, one of the common refrains was "We are stuck—we want to get 'unstuck'." There was a shared sense among council, staff and leaders that new directions and energy are needed in mission. As a congregation, we are making a faithful effort to do that in many areas of our ministry! Getting "unstuck" necessarily means change, decision-making and forward movement.

My fervent prayer is that now that the vote has happened, we will all pull together in love and joy, united in our commitment to our congregation and our shared hope for a fruitful and bright future for our life together!



**Senior "Social" Moment,
Monday, June 15th, 2 PM**

All seniors (and senior friends) of our congregation are invited to an informal time of fellowship on June 15th at 2 pm at the church.

**Muhlenberg Lutheran Church Order of 1748
to be used for
Sunday, July 5th !**

As our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we will join in the observance by using the Lutheran Church Order of 1748 which would have been used by most Lutherans in America at the time of the Revolution. While originally prepared in German by Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the Father of Lutheranism in America, the service was influenced by the liturgy of the German Lutheran St. Mary's congregation in the Savoy district of London, England, together with translations and adaptations from the Liturgy of the Lutheran churches in Holland of 1567, and experiences from his experience in Halle, Germany. The Muhlenberg Liturgy was formally adopted at the formation of the Pennsylvania Ministerium on August 15, 1748, by pastors and delegates from nine congregations in the Pennsylvania colony, after the dedication of St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Philadelphia on Sunday, August 14th. The organization of the Pennsylvania Ministerium Synod was organized by six pastors, twenty-four lay delegates, and another group of laymen from Philadelphia, including one Swedish layman. The pastors were the only voting members, with laymen serving as "consultants." The Muhlenberg Lutheran Church Order (Liturgy) was the only one authorized for use by Lutherans in the colonies for almost forty years, when some revisions began to take place. It is notable that there were no printed copies of the liturgy, but each pastor made his own handwritten copy. It is also interesting that a service of the Word and prayer was led in most congregations by a layman, with the Lord's Supper only being celebrated when a circuit riding pastor was present, sometimes only four or six times a year, given the shortage of pastors. When a communion service was announced by the pastor, members of the congregation were expected to announce to the pastor their intention to commune, and were required to attend and participate in a confessional service on the Saturday before the Sunday of the communion service. Those who did not announce or participate in the Saturday confessional service were barred from communion by the pastor!

We hope this interesting experience in worship will be a meaningful addition to our national commemoration of our 250th anniversary! -Pr.DW

GLCCenter Update from Linda Fichtelman

A huge thank you to the congregation for their support in moving forward with the renovations needed to create a top notch child care center! Now we will work with the architects to design the classroom spaces best suited to meet the needs of our prospective attendees. We will also continue our work on the programming aspects, with the current focus being compiling an employee handbook.

"Help Wanted: Altar Guild Leader(s) Needed!"



Are you someone who loves the Lord, cherishes the Lord's Sup-

per and the blessing of worship? Our long-time and much appreciated Altar Guild leader, Vanessa Stewart, would like to step down. We are looking for a person, persons or perhaps two couples who would like to be leader or co-leaders of our Altar Guild! Everything we do at Grace Lutheran Church revolves around God's grace, offered to us freely in Word and Sacrament. Our Altar Guild lovingly, prayerfully and respectfully prepares our church and sanctuary for worship so that the faithful can gather to receive God's gifts of grace.

Perhaps current Altar Guild members would consider serving as leader or there may be others in the congregation who are looking for a way to become more involved! If you are interested or have questions, please see Vanessa or Pastor Wendel. We are hoping to have a new Altar Guild leader or leaders trained and in place by September! Thanks for prayerfully considering whether God might be calling you to serve in this way! -Pr.DW



Grace Supper Club dined at the High Bank Distillery in Gahanna on May 21 and had an enjoyable evening filled with good food, laughter and fellowship. This month we have a reservation at **The Hofbrauhaus** on **Thursday, June 18 for 6:15 p.m.**

Hofbrauhaus is located at 800 Goodale Boulevard, Columbus 43212. In order for us to have an accurate headcount, we ask that you please sign up in advance and include the total number in your party. A sign up sheet is available at the Welcome Center Desk.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND! Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. Any questions, please see either Bev Grubb or Tami Stone. If you sign up and are unable to attend, please text or call Bev or Tami.

The Diabetes Dash 5K Run/Walk,

Hosted by the Washburn family, the Diabetes Dash returns for its 8th annual event on **Sunday, July 19th** at the Westerville Sports Complex. This event began after son Ryan was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in 2018 and continues to bring our community together to raise awareness and support for a cure.



To date, the Diabetes Dash has raised over \$135,000 for 'Breakthrough T1D', with a portion of proceeds also supporting scholarships for local graduating seniors living with T1D.

You can get involved by signing up to run or walk, making a donation, or sharing the event with others. Every step makes an impact. Learn more or register here:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Westerville/DiabetesDash>



Grace Safety Team

- Announcement from the Grace Safety Team:

In reviewing the needs of the congregation, we would like to alert the congregation that there are individual serving orange juice bottles located in the Loaves & Fishes refrigerator as well as in the sacristy refrigerator that can be quickly accessed in the case of

someone experiencing a low blood sugar concern. Orange juice is usually the preferred and quick treatment for someone experiencing a low blood sugar event, so we will keep a supply at these locations so they can be quickly accessed by anyone needing that help.

Let us Pray
FOR YOU

Happy 3rd Anniversary Intercessory Prayer Team

From Donna Dettmann

It has been three years since the start of the Intercessory Prayer Team here at Grace Church. The first meeting was June 14, 2023, and was the only time we came together for an in-person meeting. The team is now 19 members strong.

A list of prayers is emailed or postal mailed to the members to pray for 2 weeks. The prayers include new prayers and reminders of prayers for the second week, prayers for individuals from the Sunday's bulletin, continuing prayers for our Clergy and upcoming events at Grace.

In January of 2025, some IPT members wanted to pray the Grace Church Directory. They each have a different page to pray over for one month. God knows their individual needs. As intercessors, we are called to "ask" and God can do the rest.

If you are interested in learning more about the IPT and joining the team, contact:

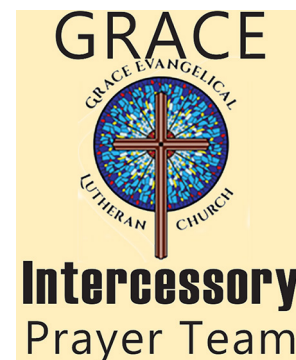
- Donna Dettmann - donnadett@aol.com – 703-447-7760
- Joanne Figge - jcfigge@gmail.com – 614-207-1061
- Susan Riches - skr.riches@gmail.com – 719-650-8696.

Confidentiality of your prayer request is very important to the intercessors. If you would like more prayer time than the 2 weeks, just fill out another request form.

Ways to ask for prayer - your name is optional:

- Prayer Chest - pens and request forms are at the back of the church.
- Use the Grace website: grace43081.org The link is found on the first page, top right side, "Prayer Request".

Let the IPT join you in asking God for your prayer need.





GRACE'S GANG MESSAGES FROM MOLLY

Molly King, Director
Youth & Family Ministries
m.king@grace43081.org or
614-882-3026.



Youth and Family Vision Statement:

To nurture Youth and Family
in Christ
through Bible based teaching,
music, activities
and community outreach.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OWL REVEAL PARTY and BREAKFAST Sunday, June 7.

OWL Reveal Party (after the 11am service). We will have breakfast together and do a craft. The children are excited to meet their OWLs!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT June 27

YOUTH & FAMILY Lunch Club July 26

FUN at the PARK August 8

- August 14 - Clippers Game
- September 12 - Columbus Crew soccer game
- September 13 - Rally Day

Youth & Family at Grace Evangelical Church:

We are excited to support families and help children grow in faith!

Here's how we welcome and care for your family during worship and beyond:

Nursery Care: For infants through age 6

- Enjoy worship while your little ones are lovingly cared for.
- Pagers available for parents – we'll page you if needed.
- Busy Bags: Keep little hands busy during the service! On the coat tree by the entrance to the sanctuary.
- Age-appropriate books and activities.

Children's Bulletins

- Bulletins with activities that follow the lectionary available at the usher's table.

Little Lambs Children's Ministry

- For ages 3 through 3rd grade
Children leave worship after the Gospel reading for an age-appropriate Bible lesson and return during the offering for Holy Communion.
- Available at both worship services.

Sunday School

- Every Sunday, 9:40 – 10:30 AM, September 7 – Memorial Day Weekend
- Classes for Preschool through High School
- Adult class also available

Lunch Club: Middle & High School Students

□ Lunch and fellowship every other month.
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is committed to helping young people and families grow in faith and community. Questions? Contact Molly King, m.king@grace43081.org, 614-882-3026



The last day of Sunday School was May 17! All Students and Teachers celebrated the SS year by decorating cupcakes and playing games.



VBS 2026
Registration NOW Open
 Sunday, July 12- Thursday, July 16
 5:30-8:00pm
 Register at www.Grace43081.org
 GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 100 E. Schrock Rd., Westerville, OH

RAINFOREST FALLS
Exploring The Nature of God

register here



Youth and Family event: Y&F went to the Westerville Golf Center for miniature golf on Saturday, May 30. At stake: Bragging rights and prizes for 1st and 2nd places.

Volunteers Needed for Rainforest Falls VBS 2026!

Join us **July 12–16** for an exciting week of Rainforest Falls VBS 2026! Our VBS adventure begins Sunday, July 12 with registration at 5:00 PM, followed by nightly programming from 5:30–8:00 PM.

VBS is one of the biggest outreach ministries of the year, and we need many helping hands to create a fun, safe, and faith-filled experience for our children. Volunteers are needed in a variety of areas, and no special experience is required—just a willing heart and excitement for sharing Jesus with kids!

Volunteer Opportunities Include:

- **Bible Adventures Leaders** (2 adults needed): Share the daily Bible Point and lead interactive Bible stories.
- **Imagination Station Leaders** (2 adults needed): Guide hands-on experiments connected to each day’s Bible lesson.
- **Sticky Scriptures Leaders** (2 adults needed): Help kids explore God’s Word through interactive videos, Bible Memory Buddies, and Scripture activities.
- **Registration Center** (2 volunteers needed): Welcome and register children each evening.
- **Games Leaders** (2 adults needed): Lead energetic games that reinforce the daily Bible Point.
- **Elementary Crew Leaders** (10 adults needed): Guide groups of elementary students through each VBS station.
- **Preschool Crew Leaders** (5 adults needed): Help our youngest participants experience God’s love in a caring environment.
- **Assistant Leaders** (15 volunteers needed): Rising 6th graders through adults are invited to assist Crew Leaders and Station Leaders throughout the week.

VBS is a wonderful opportunity to build relationships, share your faith, and make lasting memories with the children of our church and community. Please prayerfully consider serving this summer!

Pray for Our VBS

Jesus, we pray that through VBS, kids in our community will grow in their relationship with you. We ask that you begin to break down any walls that might be preventing their young hearts from receiving your love. We ask that the truth of who you are sink deep into their hearts. Let them leave knowing who you are and the overwhelming, joyful love you have for each and every one of them. May the impact of VBS last a lifetime.

For more information or to volunteer, visit the Welcome Desk or contact Molly King.



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026



Addison Nicole Cepek

Addison will soon graduate from Ostego High School in Grand Rapids, OH. She has played lots of volleyball and now has a part-time job at a local ice cream shop. Addison plans to attend the University of Toledo in the Fall and has not yet decided on her course of study.

She is the daughter of Greg and Tana Cepek and the granddaughter of Marge Cepek.



Molly Elizabeth Cepek

Molly is a recent graduate of Muskingum University majoring in sports management, marketing and economics. She was also active with the golf and archery teams. She will continue her studies at Ohio University pursuing a dual masters' program in both business and sports administration.

Molly is the daughter of David and Tanya Cepek of Gahanna and granddaughter of Marge Cepek.



Katie Singleton

Katie graduated this May from the University of Findlay with a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. She was a 4-year member of the UF Cheer Team and is a member of the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society for Educators. Katie will be finishing her student teaching this fall and then will pursue an elementary teaching job in Central Ohio.

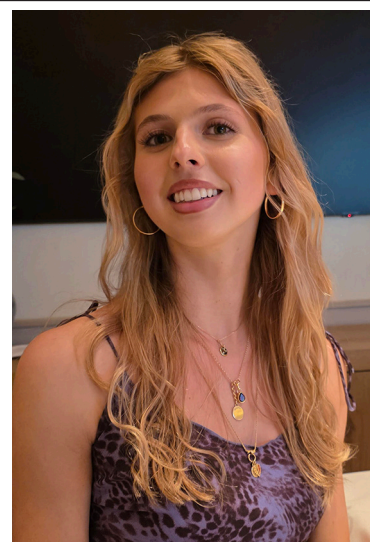
Katie is the daughter of Aaron and Heather Singleton.



Madison Banks

Madison graduates May 16/17 with honors from Miami University. She will receive a degree in Marketing with a minor in Business Analytics. While at Miami, Madison was a 4 year member and 2 year captain of the Miami Shakerettes dance team, performing at football and basketball games. Before entering the business world, Madison plans to spend from August to February as a dancer/character performer at Walt Disney World as part of the Disney College program.

Madison is the daughter of Chris and Tami Banks.



Elizabeth Anne Cogan ⇨

"Ellie" graduated on May 17 from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, from the Meadows School, Magna Cum Laude with a major in Journalism. She is returning to her home in NYC.

⇨ Lucinda Kathleen Cogan

"Lucy" will graduate on June 9, from Hewitt High School in NYC. She will attend Chapman University in Orange, CA.

Elizabeth and Lucinda are the granddaughters of Chris and Joanne Figge.



Proverbs 3:5-6
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."



Nami Clark

Nami is graduating from Westerville Central High School this Spring and is planning to attend Columbus State starting this Fall. She will be studying Marine Biology. While at WSHS, Nami double lettered in Choir and Theatre.

She is the daughter of Jeremy and Miki Clark.



Addie Gurgiolo

Addie is part of the Westerville South High School graduating class of 2026. She has been very active in choir and theatre throughout all four years of high school, being chosen as Troupe President this year. She earned four varsity letters - Academics, Choir, Theatre, and Athletics (soccer). She achieved Academic Varsity Top 10, is an AP Scholar with Distinction, a member of National Honor Society and Hope Squad.

Addie will be attending Denison University in the Fall pursuing a double major - Music/Vocal Performance and Communications, along with a minor in Music Theatre.

Addie is the daughter of Tom and Nancy Gurgiolo.



Evan J. Andrews

Evan is graduating from Westerville Central High School. He is a member of the National Honor Society and a 4-year member of the varsity tennis team. Evan will continue his education at The Ohio State University College of Engineering, studying Chemical Engineering.

Evan is the grandson of Robert and Linda Andrews.



Jack Nickoli

Jack is graduating from Westerville South High school and will be attending Ohio University in the Fall. He wants to become an Athletic Trainer. He will also be enlisting in the Army ROTC program at OU.

Jack is the son of Brandon and Bethany Nickoli.



Landon Blankenship

Landon is graduating from Olenyangy Orange High School. He will be continuing his education and baseball career at Bluffton University. He is majoring in business.

Landon is the son of Jennifer Blankenship, and grandson of Kenny and Cindy



Psalm 16:7-11

7 I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

8 I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

10 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.



Dr. Helen Kang
Choir
Director

MUSIC NOTES

Grace Ringers Bell Choir rehearsal Wednesday at 6:15pm.

Contact Maria Laderman.

Grace Chancel Choir rehearsal Wednesday at 7:00pm! All are welcome!

Contact Helen Kang.

Joyful Voices Youth Choir rehearsal schedule:

contact Helen Kang.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

PRELUDE

"Let All Things Now Living"

"Variations on DUNDEE"

Linda Hoch- Organ

MUSICAL OFFERING

8:15 *"Lord of All Hopefulness"*

Linda Hoch - Organ

11:00 *"The Lily of the Valley"*

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Interlude" - "Cantabile"

Linda Hoch- Organ

POSTLUDE

"Fanfare on Lift High the Cross"

Linda Hoch- Organ

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

PRELUDE

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

"O Zion, Haste"

Linda Hoch- Organ

MUSICAL OFFERING

8:15 *"The Lily of the Valley"*

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

11:00 *"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"*

Andrea Bush - Violin, Linda Hoch - Piano

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Ashokan Farewell"

Andrea Bush - Violin, Linda Hoch - Piano

POSTLUDE

"Come, Thou Almighty King"



Seventh Sunday of Easter

Music Festival Sunday

May 17, 2026

PRELUDE

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

"Savior, Again to Your Dear Name"

Linda Hoch- Organ

MUSICAL OFFERING

8:15 *"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"*

Linda Hoch- Organ

11:00 *"Lord of Peace"*

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Veni sponsa Christi"

Linda Hoch - Organ

POSTLUDE

"The Church's One Foundation"

Linda Hoch- Organ

Day of Pentecost

May 24, 2026

PRELUDE

"O Day Full of Grace"

"Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"

Linda Hoch- Organ

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Veni Sancte Spiritus"

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

Grace Mank-Guitar

Linda Hoch-Piano

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Open My Eyes"

"Mixolydian Tune"

Linda Hoch - Organ

POSTLUDE

"O Day of Rest and Gladness"

Linda Hoch- Organ



The Columbus Rings and Scioto Brass and Percussion Company *Journeys* May 3

The Amazing Grace Concert Series continued on May 3, 2026 with a unique and beautiful combination of Bells and Brass. The Columbus Rings, led by Artistic Director Jarod Ogier, and the Scioto Brass and Percussion Company, under the direction of Dr. Christopher Hoch, performed separately and combined for a memorial evening before a SRO crowd.



**Amazing
GRACE**
Community Concerts



Festival of Church Music Grace Singers Chancel Choir and Powell UMC Choir May 17

Utube link to concert: <https://youtu.be/V3qU9XUBD4M>



Amazing Grace Concert Series
Festival of
**CHURCH
MUSIC**



The Amazing Grace **"Church Music"** Concert was held on Sunday, May 17, at 4 p.m. It was held with the combined choirs of Grace and the Powell UMC, led by our own Helen Kang and UMC's Jeff Daubenmire. A Saxophone Solo by Joseph Worrell and flute solo by Carleigh Benson were highlights as well as a Vocal Quartet of Noel Burke, Carleigh Benson, Joseph Worrell and Aiden Kirjak. The combined choirs of 47 members were accompanied by Linda Hoch and Jeff Daubenmire on the piano and organ.

You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us.
-2 Cor 9:11

WARM's Value:

We recognize God through our work.
We believe in the dignity of each individual.
We work to help people become self-sufficient.
We strive to be exemplary stewards of resources with a vision for the future.

Thank You!

Place ONLY non-perishable items into grocery carts.
W.A.R.M. cannot accept food past its expiration date.

Fresh produce, baked goods & dairy products take directly to WARM.
150 Heatherdown Dr.
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission of feeding the hungry in our community

Choice Market June Suggestions



- Toilet Paper/Paper Towels
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Canned Meat (Chicken, Tuna, Spam, etc)
- Canned Pasta
- Sugar (granulated, brown, powdered)
- Pancake Mix
- Condiments (Ketchup, Mayo, Mustard, BBQ Sauce)
- Canned Fruit (Pears, Peaches, Pineapple)
- Rice (Brown, White)

Social Concerns Notes

from Joanne Figge

Grace Ambassadors will be manning our tent at the Westerville Farmers Markets on June 20, July 18, and August 28. Crafts associated with our VBS theme will be available for children on June 20;

Westerville Habitat Partnership's Walls Build is August 15 at WARM! Signup is available for families and individuals at westervillehabitatpartnership.org.



The Art and Environment Team will not meet during June and July. They will continue to assure that the plants, flowers and banners are displayed appropriate to the season. If you would like to know more about this ministry, check out the August Voice or contact Karen Grant or Sue Mahrt. There is a place for you!

RECEIPTS FOR WARM

Blessings to all who are making WARM a part of your regular tithes and offerings.

Here are donations received since last reported (March Voice) from Debbie Yoho, Financial Manager

WARM receipts since last reported total **\$2,540.11**, for a 2026 year-to-date total of **\$5,336.61**.

Below is what Grace members have contributed to these charities since last report:

- Faith Mission -\$50 for a 2026 total of \$345
 - Habitat for Humanity\$400 for a 2026 total of \$2,220
 - Lutheran World Relief -\$190 for a 2026 total of \$240
 - NALC Disaster Response - \$525 for a 2026 of \$1,525
- Note: Debbie forwarded \$75 to Lutheran Social Servces for Faith Mission while a benefactor was tripling donations. So they received \$225 for our \$75.

FOOD/HYGIENE MONTHLY TOTAL= **151 lbs.**
YEAR TO DATE TOTAL=**952 lbs.**

Thanks to all of our congregation members that have proven again and again that Grace is a loving and giving community of believers.



Grace Ambassadors Needed for Summer Farmers Market

from Joanne Figge

Become a 2026-2027 Grace Ambassador: Reach out to the community with the love of Jesus and help us to grow disciples! As a Grace Ambassador, you will have opportunities to attend community events

to be the presence of Grace, greet people, give them printed materials to invite them to events, and love on them.

Grace's Ambassadors will be at Westerville's Farmers Markets on June 20, July 18, and August 22 this year. They will have materials to share with the public and will have invitations to VBS, Amazing Grace concerts, Trunk or Treat, worship and Sunday School. They will also have a craft for children at each market.

Also, on July 10th and 11th we will be manning a site during the Arts and Music Festival sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Sign-up to become a Grace Ambassador at the welcome desk. Questions: Outreach and Visibility Team: Joanne Figge (614-207-1061), Ellen Paulus (614-204-4686), or Sarah Odum (614-882-3026).

W.A.R.M. Annual Prayer Breakfast 2026

WARM's Annual Prayer Breakfast was held on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at The Renaissance Hotel. The gathering was held on the National Day of Prayer and is a community tradition hosted by Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM). It's a morning of prayer, reflection, fellowship, and service, drawing together people from across the Westerville area to praise God and consider His presence and work in their lives Westerville Area Resource Ministry.

The event supports WARM's mission to serve individuals and families in need. It's both a spiritual celebration and a call to action, encouraging attendees to "Lift Up the Word – Light Up the World"

Grace has been a contributor to WARM for many years and has sent representatives to the Prayer Breakfast each year as well. Pastor Wendel opened this year's breakfast gathering with Prayer.

Shown at the right is a note our office received from WARM after the breakfast.



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church,
 What a beautiful morning! Thanks to your generous support, the WARM 2026 Annual Prayer Breakfast was a huge success - with lasting impact. We were able to bring our community together for faith, fellowship, and mission.
 Thank you for standing by us and leading the way to ensure no one in Westerville goes hungry.



Your generous gift shines brightly, spreading compassion, grace, and hope throughout our community.

Thank you for partnering with us in our vision to see Westerville free from hunger, where every person can step into their God-given potential.

Your kindness brings stability, dignity, and hope to our neighbors in need.

Suzanne
Tim
Dore
Katelyn
CEA



Grace Stitches Send Little Dresses for Africa! - From Vanessa Stewart

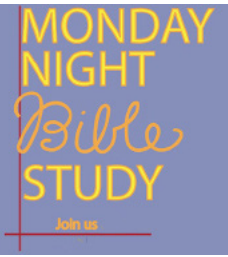
Grace Stitches News: May 24th at both services the congregation joined the Grace Stitches in the Blessing of 51 dresses, 62 personal pads, and 60 pairs of underwear for Little Dresses for Africa! After the service they were boxed up for special delivery May 25th to Little Dresses headquarters in Michigan by Grace Stitcher Shirley Hodek. Included with the shipment was a check for \$125 to help with shipment cost to Africa. Each stitch is a reminder that God's love reaches across the world — bringing dignity, hope, and joy to children and families in need. We are so thankful for the dedication, creativity, and servant hearts of this wonderful group!



Thank you who contributed to this effort and the prayerful support of the congregation on Sunday, May 24, the items made by our Grace Stitches group on their way to little girls in Africa.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Women's Wednesday Bible Study • Katharine Circle • Ruth Circle
Men of Grace • Sunday Morning Adult Class • Monday Evening Study
Band of Brothers • Sisterhood



Monday Night Bible Study of Romans continues Mondays, 6:30 PM! As a young monk, Martin Luther struggled with his own sinfulness, leading to his search for a truly gracious, forgiving God. As Luther's confessor and Father Superior at the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt, Johann von Staupitz believed Luther's inner angst would be relieved by his study of Holy Scripture. Staupitz sent young Father Martin to study at the University of Wittenberg, Germany. In his studies, Luther continually questioned the phrase, "the righteousness of God," Romans 1:17. Habakkuk 2:4, that "The just shall live by faith," opened Luther's eyes to a new, more complete understanding of Romans 1:17, resulting in his conviction that the Bible proclaims that we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ alone! Finally, Luther came to cherish Paul's Epistle to the Romans as above all other New Testament books, as it proclaimed the "purest Gospel." Luther recommended that Romans should be known by heart and studied daily! As Monday evening Bible Study continues, Pastor Wendel is leading a study of Paul's Letter to the Romans, Mondays, 6:30 PM. If you have hoped for a fuller grasp of Luther and the Lutheran understanding of "justification by grace through faith," you are welcome!



Band of Brothers Gathering

Tuesday, June 11, 6:30 PM at the church

The Band of Brothers group for younger/working men will begin a new study using a book on "Systematic Theology" for ordinary Christians. Each month the

discussion is led by one of the group on important topics in Scripture and how to answer questions related to each topic. In May, the discussion addressed the fact that God created us in His own image. All younger/working men are invited!. -Pr.DW

KATHARINE CIRCLE

(Rose Garden 2&3)

Katharine Circle met **Monday, June 1 at 1 p.m.** for lunch at the TWO-ONE Restaurant of the Renaissance Hotel at Polaris. Katharine Circle will reconvene in September. Call Dorothy Crain, 614-264-5304.



RUTH CIRCLE (Rose Garden 1)

Ruth Circle's Spring/Summer luncheon will take place at 1:00 on **Monday, June 8th** at the North High Restaurant, 240 S. State St. in Westerville. Please RSVP to Dorothea Fuhrman at 614-205-8111. All are welcome to join us.



THE WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, Women's Bible study will begin a new study on **June 3, at 10:30 am.** If you are interested see Molly King or email at m.king@grace43081.org



MEN OF GRACE BIBLE STUDY

(Loaves and Fishes Cafe)

All men of Grace Lutheran Church (and friends!) —next meeting **Saturday, June 20, 8 AM** in the Loaves and Fishes Cafe. We continue the study of the Gospel of Luke! Pastor Wendel facilitates the study. Join us for breakfast, study and fellowship. -Pr.DW



The Catholicity of the Reformation in 90 Minutes!

This 90 minute study was presented last October by Pastor Wendel and was recorded in its entirety and is available on YouTube from the Grace homepage: www.Grace43081.org.

Grace Sisterhood

Grace Sisterhood's next meeting is **June 8** at 7pm at The Hoover Bar and Kitchen. We will continue meeting the 2nd Monday of each month (so mark your new 2026 calendars so you can join in the fellowship). We are studying, "Women and Identity" by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun & Tracey D Bianchi. All younger/working women of the congregation (and friends!) are invited and welcome! Contact: Melissa Hodek



The Session on Lutheranism is available on the Church Website and YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtQGn4q9qll&t=16s>

it is titled

"Lutheranism in 90 Minutes"
by Pastor David Wendel

JUNE 2026

BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

1-JUNE CALLANDER	20-LILLIAN HICKS
3-JOYCE KNAPE	21-BARBARA MULLER
3-CAROL RUSSELL	23-TSEGU UCUBAGABRIEL
5-VERNA KREACHBAUM	25-HELEN KANG
7-ROD RICE	26-CHAD SHINABARGAR
8-JANET BREEN	27-KAREN GRANT
8-CAROLINE STOLL	28-JIM CLAFLIN
8-TERESA TURNBULL	29-MARY LOU BRIGHT
10-BRICE GRAVES	30- ATARAH FRENCH
11-SUE CLARK	30-JULIE YOUNG
12-LAUREN SHINABARGAR	
13-SHANNON CALLANDER	
15-GARRY BRIGHT	
16-JACK YOUNG	
18-SANDRA KRUMM	
19-JACK ROCKWOOD	

JULY

1-ANNA HODEK
2-JIM SHORE
3-JOHN KNAPE
4-JENNIFER BLANKENSHIP
4-CORBIN PERKINS

ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE

13-AARON & HEATHER SINGLETON	28
14-MIKE & CAROL RUSSELL	58
15-JONATHAN & VIRGINIA BRILL.....	24
17-JON & ANDREA SWEET	38
19-DICK & PEGGY JONES	55
20-DAVID & BARBARA DOLL.....	67
20-DAVID WENDEL & SUSAN RICHES.....	
21-JIM & RELLA KEHL	35
21-LON & MIKE LANDIS.....	44
22-KAREN & PETE HOLMES	30
26-RACHEL & EARLE GANGESTAD	55
26-BILL & TWYLA RIDDER	60
26-TAMI & THOMAS STONE	44
27-DENNIS & PAM COOPER	56
28-DAVID & DOROTHA FUHRMAN	62
29-MERLIN & JANET BREEN	58

JULY

1-DANIEL & KRISTI GEORGE	31
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SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

(Fellowship Hall)

The Adult SS class began a recess in May. They will reconvene sometime in August. The new study has yet to be determined. Please consider joining the adult Sunday School for a study facilitated by Bill Kulju in the fellowship hall at 9:45.

FLOWERS GIVEN BY...

MAY 3

- Phyllis Drakulich in memory of Joe Drakulich– husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.
- David, Sarah, and Emily Odum in celebration of Kenny and Cindy Odum's 50th wedding anniversary.

MAY 10

- Steve and Sue Mahrt in honor of Betty and Hugo Wenzel, Sue's parents.
- Lisa Kuhar in celebration of mother Ann Korb's birthday.

MAY 17

- Chris and Linda Hoch in celebration of Benny's 15th birthday.
- Amy Quinn in memory of William and Janice Sweet.

MAY 24

- Ted and Angela Ray in celebration of their 41st wedding anniversary



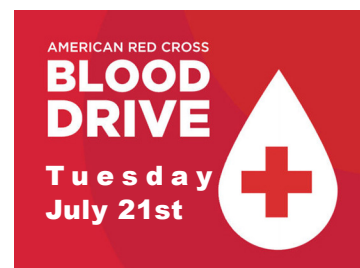
Sign up for Altar Flowers at Welcome Center

Each Sunday we enjoy seeing flowers on the bema. It reminds us of the beauty of God's creation. The arrangement can honor an event, a loved one or give thanks and glory to God. Unfortunately the cost of flowers has gone up like many other things. The current cost is \$80 a week. To help cover the cost, we are asking for a minimum donation of \$40.00. The flowers are not the property of the donor, but will be enjoyed by all. With care they can last a week or more in the gathering space.

We encourage you to continue this tradition. You may sign up at the welcome center, on-line through our giving page, or call the office.



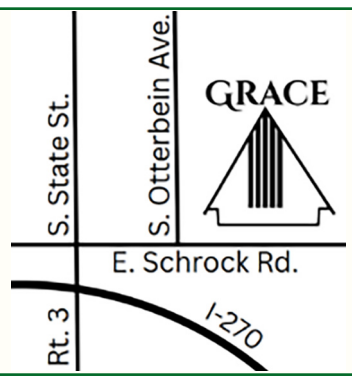
David Doll, Linda Slates, Rich Meneley, Twyla Ridder, Jennifer Rockwood, Don Melick, Tom Zawodny, Betty Milner, Rod Rice, Sue Ross, Mary Ross, Jim Ross, and our Graduates of 2026.



YOU ARE INVITED TO *Worship* 8:15 & 11 a.m.



We invite our guests to accept a "Guest Bag" that contains information about Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. The guest bags are located at the Welcome Center, just outside the entrance to the sanctuary. Ask an usher or any member for assistance.



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

100 E. Schrock Road, Westerville, OH 43081

Office Hours: Monday thru Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Friday 9 a.m. to Noon

PH: 614-882-3026 • e-mail: office@grace43081.org • Website: www.grace43081.org

Facebook: facebook.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranWesterville

Grace Lutheran has been serving the Westerville community since 1909, supporting local ministries such as the Westerville Area Resource Ministry (W.A.R.M.), Westerville Partnership Habitat for Humanity and the Westerville CROP Walk. Grace also supports Lutheran Social Services programs like Faith Mission and provides weekly space for five AA groups (*Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday*). The Red Cross Bloodmobile, Vacation Bible School, the Autism Buddy Camp and Joyful Noise Concerts also are a benefit to the Westerville community.

Grace Staff

- David Wendel, Pastor d.wendel@grace43081.org
719-650-8171
- Molly King, Director of Youth and Family Ministries
614-581-6675 m.king@grace43081.org
- Helen Kang, Choir Director
h.kang@grace43081.org
- Linda Hoch, Organist lkgraf102078@earthlink.net
- Sarah Odum, Business Manager
s.odum@grace43081.org
- Debbie Yoho, Financial Manager
d.yoho@grace43081.org
- Jon Sweet, Facilities Manager
facility@grace43081.org
- Maria Laderman, Director, Bell Choir
laderman522@yahoo.com
- Fred Pfanz, Sacristan Pfanz1@aol.com

2026 Church Council

- President**
Lisa Kuhar
- Vice President**
Ted Ray
- Treasurer**
Jim Caldwell
- Secretary**
Tracy Nave
- Members-at-Large**
Kyle Lamb
Ellen Paulus
Gregg Rearick
Jackie Washburn
- Pastor**
Rev. Dr. David Wendel

Worship and Study

Holy Communion

EVERY Sunday Morning
Two Worship Services: 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.

Youth Sunday School classes K-5

9:45 to 10:30 upstairs in the Preschool Room.

Confirmation and High School

9:45 to 10:30. Basement Youth Room

Adult Learning

9:45 a.m. Fellowship Hall

The Nursery

Open Sunday mornings during both services and the Sunday School hour.

Service Recording:

The recorded 8:15 am service will be available at noon www.grace43081.org

Vision Statement

We envision Grace to be a welcoming Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to reach out with the love of Jesus to grow disciples and serve our community.



North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

embraces four core values:
Christ Centered, Mission Driven,
Traditionally Grounded and
Congregationally Focused.

The NALC is focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples in North America and around the globe.

Learn more about Grace and the NALC.

Phone: +1 888 551 7254 •
E-mail: info@thenalc.org

Treasurer's Report - from Jim Caldwell, Treasurer

Year to date receipts and disbursements recap.

	APRIL 2026			YTD 2026		
	Budget	Actuals	Variance	Budget	Actuals	Variance
Receipts	\$52,667	\$50,394	\$(2,273)	\$210,667	\$203,165	\$(7,502)
Disbursements:	55,958	62,217	(6,259)	223,833	232,111	(8,277)
Excess(Deficit)	\$(3,292)	\$(11,823)	\$(8,531)	\$(13,167)	\$(28,946)	\$(15,779)

Treasurer's Reports can be requested from Jim Caldwell or from the Church Office. If you have questions please contact any member of Council.



**GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
100 E. Schrock Rd.
Westerville, OH 43081



2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1</p> <p>1:00pm Katharine Circle</p> <p>6:30pm Monday Night Bible Study on Romans</p>	<p>2</p> <p>2:30pm End of Life folder stuffing</p> <p>3:30pm Care Team Mtg.</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30 am Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:30pm Scioto VBPC</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:30pm Set- up for 38th anniversary Mtg</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30am AA Mtg</p> <p>3:00pm Event Set-up 5-7pm <i>Go To The World Concert</i></p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>
<p>7 Second Sunday After Pentecost/Graduate Sunday/ First Fruits/ Care Team (Pr. David Wendel) 8:15 & 11:00am Worship Services 12:30pm OWL Reveal</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1:00pm Ruth Circle @ North High Brewery</p> <p>6:30pm Monday Night Bible Study on Romans</p> <p>7:00pm Grace Sisterhood @ Hoover</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:30 am Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:15pm Ringers</p> <p>7:30pm Scioto VBPC</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30pm Band of Brothers</p> <p>7:30pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Private Inurnment</p> <p>4:30pm Hager/Keller Wedding Rehearsal</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30am AA Mtg</p> <p>2:30pm Hager/Keller Wedding</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>
<p>14 Third Sunday After Pentecost (Pr. David Wendel) 8:15 & 11:00am Worship Services 12:30pm VBS Craft/Build Day #2</p>	<p>15</p> <p>2:00pm Senior "Social" Moments</p> <p>6:30pm Monday Night Bible Study on Romans</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Items due for June 23 Council Mtg</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:30 am Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:15pm Ringers</p> <p>7:30pm Scioto VBPC</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:15pm Supper Club</p> <p>7:30pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Schroeder/Robey Wedding Rehearsal</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00am Men of Grace</p> <p>9am-noon Grace Ambassador's @ Farmer's Market</p> <p>9:30am AA Mtg</p> <p>Schroeder/Robey Wedding</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>
<p>21 Fourth Sunday After Pentecost (Pr. David Wendel) 8:15 & 11:00am Worship Services</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1:00pm Euchre Group</p> <p>6:30pm Monday Night Bible Study on Romans</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30pm Council Mtg.</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:30 am Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:15pm Ringers</p> <p>7:00pm VBS Training Mtg</p> <p>7:30pm Scioto VBPC</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00am Staff Mtg.</p> <p>7:30pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30am AA Mtg</p> <p>7:30pm Family Movie Night</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>
<p>28 Fifth Sunday After Pentecost (Pr. David Wendel) 8:15 & 11:00am Worship Services</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30pm Monday Night Bible Study on Romans</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>We envision Grace to be a welcoming, Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Worship materials and sermon available online at www.grace43081.org</p> </div>			

Grace

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
100 East Schrock Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081
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Pr. David Wendel: (719) 650-8171
E-mail: office@grace43081.org
Website: www.grace43081.org
<http://www.facebook.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranWesterville>



Place address label here



We are a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church



*If you would like to see
and hear the recording of
Church Music Festival (pictured on
page 9) that was delivered so beau-
tifully on May 17, 2026, it is posted
on Pastor*

*Wendel's YouTube channel
<https://youtu.be/V3qU9XUBD4M>*



**Loaves
and
Fishes
café is
OPEN!**

