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THE VOICE OF GRACE

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

OCTOBER 2026

An Affiliate of the North American Lutheran Church



Reformation Day
October 31, 2026

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

Notes From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Dr. David Wendel

The psalmist writes,

"Let us make a joyful noise...with thanksgiving!" Psalm 95:1-2

Often, congregations have special "noisy offerings," usually in Sunday School or youth gatherings, when coins were tossed into offering cans, making lots of joyful noise as the kids learned about and practiced faithful stewardship!

Our stewardship theme for this year is **"With joy and thanksgiving!"** If only we still had coins and cans to be able to make our offerings with a "joyful noise..."

with thanksgiving!"

Some approach the annual stewardship emphasis with less than joy and thanksgiving, seeing "offerings" and "giving" as something of a burden. For the child of God, nothing could be further from reality, as our offerings, regardless the size or timing, grows out of our gratitude for the immeasurable blessings we have received from our great God and Father! It is appropriate, then, that we lift our hearts to sing God's praise with joy and thanksgiving! It is also appropriate that we give of ourselves, what we have and are, to God also with joy and thanksgiving! As we enter into our annual time of reflection upon God's gifts and blessings, leading us to our **stewardship commitment/pledge Sunday, October 25, 2026**, we will have three Sundays leading up to that day when we will have brief sharing during announcements as members answer the question, 'What is there about our church which causes you to respond 'with joy and thanksgiving?' "

As we continue to strive to balance income and expenses, every member and giver is important. In 2027, we are again asking every household and member to prayerfully consider increasing giving, if possible, to help us grow in mission and ministry. Many exciting things are happening in our congregation, with new members, many visitors, Grace Youth Group, Amazing Grace Community Concerts, as well as needed renovations beginning first quarter 2027 which will provide us with a new fellowship hall and kitchen, new small chapel space and of course, Grace Lutheran Children's Center! Support for our ongoing day-to-day ministry is as important as the outreach happening through our mission reserve fund. It takes each of us and all of us to remain strong financially, so that we can maintain our many and varied ministries.

Here is the timeline for our fall stewardship emphasis:

October 4, 11 and 18: "With Joy and Thanksgiving" sharing from members

October 12 Stewardship packets mailed (With letter/Giving Growth Step Chart/Pledge Card)

October 25 Reformation Sunday, Pledge/Commitment Sunday and ministry fair displays

November 1 All Saints Sunday

November 15 Annual Meeting/Presentation and approval of 2027 spending plan

Please lend an ear to those who will be sharing during worship announcements and watch for the stewardship packet! And then, please prayerfully consider your giving for the year of our Lord 2027!

Continued on page 2

Trunk or Treat - Merry not Scary SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 Attention kids and families!

Bring your friends, neighbors, and classmates to Grace for our **Merry, Not Scary Trunk or Treat** on Sunday, October 18, from 2-4 PM! Wear your favorite costume and travel from decorated trunk to decorated trunk for games, activities, and treats. It's a fun, family-friendly alternative to going door-to-door—or just another chance to wear that costume one more time! Everyone is welcome!

NEEDED: Trunk or Treat Volunteers and Candy/Prize Collection:

Help make our Merry, Not Scary Trunk or Treat a fun afternoon for local families! We need 15 cars, families, groups, or organizations to decorate their trunks and pass out candy on Sunday, October 18. Decorating begins at 12:30 PM, with Trunk or Treat from 2-4 PM. Choose a fun, kid-friendly theme and get creative! Sign up at the Welcome Desk or <https://grace-evangelical-luther.subsplash/svn72sg>. Questions? Contact Abby Reynolds or Sarah Odum. A bin is located in the Gathering Space and East Narthex to collect candy and prizes to handout at the Trunk or Treat event.



Notes from the Pastor - continued

Band of Brothers to meet **Tuesday, October 13, 6:30 PM!**

The monthly gathering of younger/working men will be Tuesday, October 13, 6:30 PM at the church. Beginning in November, meetings will take place regularly on the second Thursday of every month. Band of Brothers in November will be Thursday, November 12th and then Thursday, December 10th!

Senior "Social" Moment, Monday, October 19th, 1 PM! All seniors and friends of the congregation are invited to our monthly Senior "Social" Moment gathering Monday, Oct. 19th, 1 PM at Loaves and Fishes area at church! We will again have trivia Q and A from the book, Sorry, Wrong Answer! Also, come prepared to share Halloween memories!

Grace Youth Group! Our new Grace Youth Group (GYG!) is off to a great start! Normally, youth group meets on Sundays from 3-5 PM, with devotion, activity and refreshments provided by youth! Miguel Arreguin is serving as youth group president and Hannah Laderman is vice-president. The youth group activity for Sunday, Oct. 4th is the CROP walk, with a number of our youth participating in this walk for world hunger. We will meet regularly on Sundays, Oct. 12, 18 and 25, from 3-5 PM. A resupply of GYG T-shirts are in, and may be picked up at church, for those youth who haven't received one!

Special Festival Days in Worship October 18 and 25! We will observe the commemoration day of Saint Luke, evangelist on Sunday, October 18th during worship! When a saint's day of commemoration falls on a "green" Sunday, we have the option of remembering that saint during worship. Saint Luke's day will be "red," always a festive Sunday!

The following Sunday, **October 25, will be Reformation Sunday, also "red,"** for the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church! That day will also be our Stewardship/Commitment Sunday, with return of pledge/commitment cards, time and talent sheets and our annual Ministry Fair on display, with tables in the welcome space highlighting the different areas of ministry in our congregation!



Pastor Emeritus Hartfelder Preached on September 6th.

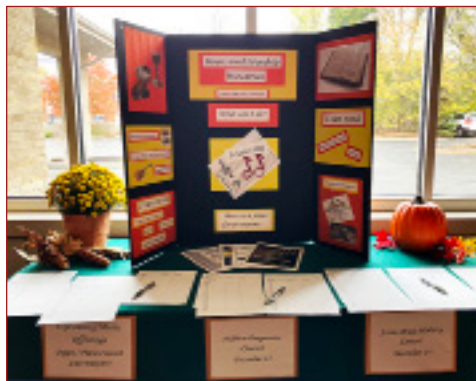
Thanks to Pastor Emeritus Will Hartfelder for leading our worship service the first Sunday in September. Pastor Wendel was away that weekend to attend his wife Susan's college reunion in Iowa. Pictured with Pastor Hartfelder is Eloise Collier, who is the oldest living member of Grace at 102 years old. Eloise is a faithful attender and we are blessed to see Pastor Hartfelder and Eloise visiting together again.



connect • grow • serve

Grace Ministry Fair Sunday, October 25, Reformation Sunday Sunday, October 25

Check out the many ways that Grace is living out its mission through the many ministry areas that serve our congregation and community—Worship and Music, Hospitality, Social Concerns, Youth and Family, and more. Each ministry team will have a table in the Gathering Space with information about their ministry. Be sure to visit the tables and learn how Grace is reaching out and serving others. You are encouraged to see how you can be a part of one or more of these important ministries and help serve Grace and the community.



The ministry displays will be up for a few weeks. Members are urged to visit the displays and talk to the leaders of those ministries. **Come find a place to serve.**



November 1

*"Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven..."*
Matthew 5:12



November 15

GLCCenter Update from Linda Fichtelman

The steering team met several times this past month to finalize handbooks that will now be sent to Council for approval. We've also been collecting data needed to prepare the budget and began the process of developing job descriptions. Meetings with the architect firm have continued as well to put the finishing touches on the physical layout and consider options for interior design features. Exciting things are happening!!



Rally Around the Cross Picnic

from Denise Reynard

What a wonderful time was had at this years picnic, except for the minor grill issue. The bounce house and dunk tank were a great success. Thank you to Pastor for being brave enough to have balls thrown at him and to be dunked... a lot. We also had great weather for both the dunk tank and the picnic.

We had some great bake off desserts and they were all delicious, I know because I tasted them all, I hope everyone else did too. Our winner was Ellen Paulus, 2nd place to Linda Hoch and third to Denise Reynard. Congratulations ladies. The recipes will be printed in the November issue of The Voice.

I would like to thank everyone who came and broke bread after the service. It was a great turn out. I would also thank my fearless grill master George Paulus. Not only did he man the grill, he was cooking upstairs in the kitchen when the grill decided it wanted to break a valve. Larry Siefert stepped in and helped with the grill and kitchen work, so I must thank him for that. I also need to thank Jaya Koppera who helped me in the kitchen cooking and washing dishes. I also want to thank the people with the hardest job, the bake off judges. I cannot imagine how difficult it was. Most of all I want to thank Ellen Paulus who was my greatest side kick. She did so much so that everyone could have a wonderful time. Last but certainly not least, everyone who stayed and helped clean up. Many hands made very short work.

During the ministry fair, I will have a book available so that you can write any ideas, thought or concerns about the picnic. So that we can continue to grow this event for our congregation. Please stop by and share.



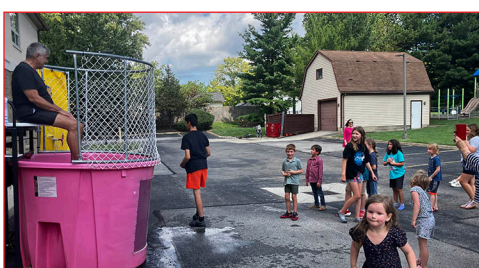
Everyone enjoyed the great food.



George and Ellen on the Grill.



Ron takes tips from Roger on goody golf as Marian looks on.



The lone volunteer.

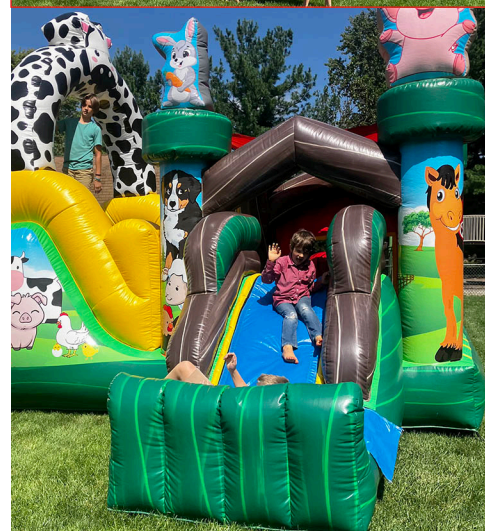
GYG



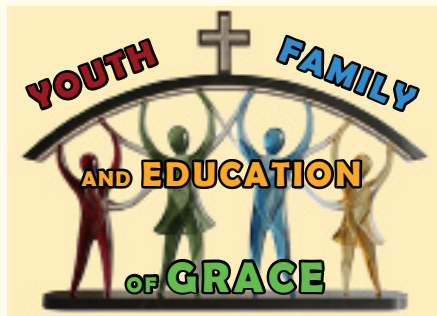
Following the picnic, the Grace Youth Group (GYG) held their first get-together. As you can see it was a 'smash'.



Pastor Wendel was a great sport. He certainly was the coolest guy there.



The kiddos loved the bounce house. Bumps but no bruises.



Youth, Family and Education 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

Grace Youth Group : Middle & High School Students

- Youth Led, Adult Supported. See information in next column.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is committed to helping young people and families grow in faith and community.

Questions? Contact: Abby Bloor, areynolds364@gmail.com or

Sarah Odum, s.odum@grace43081.org - 614-882-3026



O.W.L. Resumes

Youth and Family has announced the start of this year's O.W.L. Ministry (Older, Wiser, Lutherans) program.

Grace's OWLs encourage the children in grades 4-8th in our congregation. The children need support and encouragement with everything that is going on in the world and the pressures of school in this day and age. The OWL's responsibility is to pray for their child and give them a card or small gift on the cart each month. The children do not know who their OWL is for the school year. At the end of the school year we have a Reveal Party where they find out who their OWL is and have lunch together. There is also a small craft to work on together. If you have any questions contact Amy Quinn, a.quinn@grace43081.org.



A NEW FOCUS ON OUR YOUTH: We are refocusing our efforts and energy on the youth of our congregation by forming the Grace Youth Group (GYG)!

UPCOMING GYG MEETINGS:

- Sunday, October 4- no meeting (participating in CROP Walk)
- Sunday, October 11- 3-5pm (Activity: Hannah)
- Sunday, October 18- no meeting (assisting with Trunk or Treat)
- Sunday, October 25- 3-5pm (Activity: Gabe, Snack: Pastor David)

YOUTH LED • ADULT SUPPORTED: The GYG is being shaped as "youth led, adult supported," encouraging our youth to grow as disciples of Jesus, leaders, and servants.

OUR VISION FOR GYG: "Our ministry with youth will connect young people with Jesus, His Church and each other, encouraging Christian leadership, discipleship and service in our church and community."

YOUTH, FAMILY & EDUCATION TEAM: The team will support the Grace Youth Group while overseeing and nurturing our entire congregational family in Christ through Christ centered, Bible-based teaching, growth as disciples, and service in church and community.

GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is committed to helping children, youth, and families grow in faith, leadership, service, and community.



"Show me your friends and I'll show you your future"
-Bill Kalju's father

Serving at the Eucharist

from Tami Stone

Would you like to be more involved with our worship service at Grace? Would you be willing to serve Holy Communion at one or two services per month?



One of the most meaningful moments in our worship service is when we gather around the Lord's table to receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are inviting you to play a vital role in the distribution of this sacrament. If you have been looking for a way to grow spiritually, this ministry is a wonderful place to begin.

This ministry is open to confirmed members of any age. No prior experience is necessary and a brief training will be provided. Scheduling is based on your availability at your service of choice. Please contact one of our Communion Assistant team leaders, Chris Bank, cbanks5@gmail.com (8:15 service) or Tami Stone, stone8059@sbcglobal.net (11:00 service) for more information.



Care Team Ministry

From Donna Dettmann

Did you know that the Care Team supplies "CareNotes" TM booklets

- In the Gathering Space (on the Welcome Desk)
- On the table by the "back door" (near ... the Rose Garden Room)
- In the Ladies Room (by the Sanctuary).

CareNote topics include: Prayer, Self Care, Family/Teens, Kids, and Grief.



Advent starts November 29, and we have booklets for both Advent and Christmas for you to look through and to get you started on the holidays.

Also, if you know someone that would like to have communion brought to them, the Care Team is trained to visit the sick, homebound and those in grief.

Call – Sarah Odem at the Grace office – 614-882-3026 ext. 1

Peggy Jones at – 614-354-6884

Donna Dettmann at – 703-447-7760

They can find a Care Team member to bring communion and anointing oil to you.



Let us Pray for You

from Donna Dettmann

At the end of the service, when you are in line to speak with Pastor David, check out the Prayer Corner.

☐ We have "word art" asking you to "Let Us Pray For You". The Intercessory Prayer Team has 18 members that will pray with for 2 weeks, asking God for your prayer need to be answered.

☐ There's a red candle to represent the perpetual presence of God's availability through prayer.

☐ There is a small poster on the table, as a reminder about how prayer works in our lives.

To ask for the IPT to partner with you:

☐ Use the "Prayer Chest", request forms and pens are there, to make your need known to the IPT.

☐ Prayer requests can also be sent through the Grace website: <https://sub-splash.com/u/-KJ4PQ7/forms/d/05aee550-f949-48db-a87c-d651dc398e69>

Your Intercessory Prayer Team is available to join you in your prayer need.



The Grace Safety Team is hosting an American Red Cross 1st aid & Stop the Bleed class at Grace Saturday Oct 24, 9-11am.

This is a 2 year certificate class taught at Grace by Evan Derr from OhioCPRCerts that also does our CPR classes at Grace. It is a fun hands-on class where all the information is covered during the class time.

Because the Safety Team feels it's important for those caring for our family to be prepared, the safety team will cover half the cost of the class - \$35, with the remaining \$35 to be covered by the participant. This \$35 can be given to Debbie Yoho in the office before or after the class.

Please respond back to Vanessa Stewart by Sunday Oct 11 if you are planning to take the class. The class will be canceled if there are less than 7 people signed up, so it's important that we hear from you if you are taking the class!

Thank you for all you do for our Family of Grace!

Vanessa Stewart
Grace Safety Team
614-588-2712
vschpn55@gmail.com

Serve

"Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; for consider what great things he has done for you"
1 Samuel 12:24



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.

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 6, 2026

PRELUDE

"Where Charity and Love Prevail" -

*"Meditation on Awake,
My Soul, and with the Sun"*

Linda Hoch- Organ

"MUSICAL OFFERING

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Andrea Bush - Violin,

Linda Hoch - Piano

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Wonderful Words of Life"

Linda Hoch- Organ

POSTLUDE

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Linda Hoch- Organ



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 13, 2026

PRELUDE

"Lord of All Hopefulness" -

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

Linda Hoch- Organ

"MUSICAL OFFERING

8:15 *"How Beautiful"*

Heather Bush - Vocal Solo,

Linda Hoch - Piano

11:00 *"By Faith and Not by Sight"*

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

COMMUNION MUSIC

"For the Bread Which You Have Broken" -

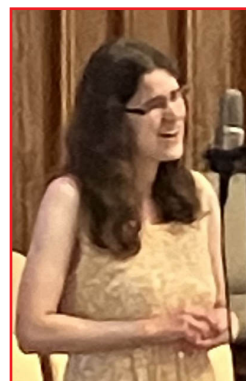
"Bread of Life, Good Shepherd, Tend Us"

Linda Hoch- Organ

POSTLUDE

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

Linda Hoch- Organ



Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost September 20, 2026

PRELUDE

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

"Prelude on Munich"

Linda Hoch- Organ

"MUSICAL OFFERING

8:15 *"By Faith and Not by Sight"* -

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

11:00 *"Lord, I Want to Be a*

Christian" with *"Abide with Me"*

Larry Seifert - Piano

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Bread of the World in Mercy Broken"

Linda Hoch- Organ

POSTLUDE

"Salvation Unto Us Has Come"

Linda Hoch- Organ



Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 27, 2026

PRELUDE

"O God, My Faithful God"

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

Linda Hoch- Organ

"MUSICAL OFFERING

8:15 *"What Wondrous Love Is This"*

Linda Hoch - Organ

11:00 *"Jesus Is the Living Stone"*

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

COMMUNION MUSIC

"O Bread of Life from Heaven" "Arioso"

Linda Hoch- Organ

POSTLUDE

"You Servants of God"

Linda Hoch- Organ



On Sunday afternoon, September 20, the Amazing Grace Community Concert Series presented a Jazz concert "The Spiritual Songs of Charlie Earland, featuring the Linda Dachtyl - Charles Earland B3 Tribute Ensemble. The concert was excellent and very much appreciated by those in attendance.

The next Amazing Grace Concert is the Central Ohio Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. Don't miss this, they are fabulous.



Scan to Simply Give

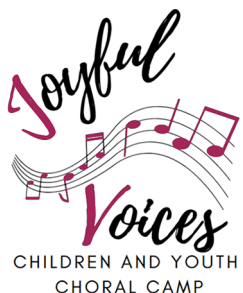
This QR code connects you to the mobile version of Grace's online giving page to give you a quick and easy way to access the page without having to type out a long web address. Through this link, you can create a one-time or on-going donation and to specify where you want your gift to be applied. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving. You can now give:

- online <https://grace-evangelical-luther.subspla.sh/87gkvf2>,

- through the app (<https://subsplash.com/grace-evangelical-luther/app>) or

- Scan the QR code to Simply Give today. Financial Update: If you would like a copy of the full monthly Treasurer's report as presented to Council, please reach out to the Treasurer, Jim Caldwell and it will be emailed to you.

Joyful Voices Children/Youth Choral Day Camp



The "Joyful Voices Children/Youth Choral Day Camp" was held at Grace Evangelical Lutheran on Saturday, September 26th. Our Choir Director, Dr. Helen Kang, led the choral camp with the aid of several of our choir members from Otterbein University. Ten youngsters attended the 10 am to 4:00 pm camp and found an innate joy and creativity expressed in their singing. Besides being a fun day, the benefits of this kind of camp includes improved language skills, enhanced memory, healthy emotional development and increased self-confidence.

This is the first year for the camp so the hope is that the word will spread and next year will be an even larger group of children.



John Westenhaver's West Liberty Championship Football team Celebrated

The WLSC Conference championship football teams were recognized during halftime of West Liberty's Saturday, Sept. 26 Mountain East Conference matchup with Concord at West Family Stadium. In 1979, John Westenhaver was the head coach WL when they won the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC) Championship.



At left is a 1979 newspaper picture of Coach Westenhaver with his West Liberty staff.

Pictured with Coach Westenhaver at the celebration is Mark Murphy, a star player on that team. Mark went on to spend more than a decade in the NFL with the Green Bay Packers, becoming their 1981 Rookie of the Year. He was a Packer for 12 years and has been inducted into the Packer Hall of Fame.



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.

If you have questions about
Grace's First Fruits Ministry, contact
(financial) Debbie Yoho,
d.yoho@grace43081.org 614-882-3026
(food/hygiene) Karen Bale,
bale.karen@gmail.com 614-506-3331
(Grace Social Concerns) Joanne Figge,
jcfigge@gmail.com 614-207-1061

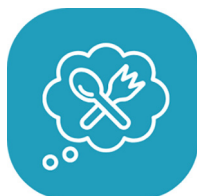
Fast facts about WARM's impact in our community.

The Reality in Westerville

43% of kids in Westerville City Schools
qualify for free or reduced lunch.



There are 200,000 food insecure people
in Franklin County.



45% of Franklin County residents fall
below the SNAP benefit threshold.



A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out

We believe that meeting someone's
physical needs is just the beginning.

WARM provides food, resources, and
hope—helping families get back on their
feet and move toward long-term stabil-
ity. Through our Client Choice Market,
workforce development programs, and
spiritual care, we walk alongside each
person with dignity and compassion.

Thanks to every Grace Member who is
able to donate to WARM and impact the
lives of the families in our community.
Look for other ways to donate in the com-
ing months through the holiday season.

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
from Debbie Yoho, Financial Manager

WARM receipts since last reported total **\$1,570.00**, for a 2026 year-to-date
total of **\$9,061.60**

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

Faith Mission - year-to-date total remains at \$345
Habitat for Humanity - \$150, for a year-to-date total of \$2,690
Lutheran World Relief - year-to-date total remains at \$290
NALC Disaster Response - \$1,050, for a year-to-date total of \$2,850

Grace's Mission Fund's recent matching donations challenge of up to \$1,000 to WARM
for September Hunger Action Awareness Month was successful!
All \$1000 was given to WARM! Thank you to all of you who donated!

FOOD/HYGIENE MONTHLY TOTAL=**358 lb.** YEAR TO DATE TOTAL= **2,710.5 lbs**

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

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

Oct Suggestions



- Canned Pasta
- Cereal
- Condiments
- Dish Soap
- Hamburger
Helpers
- Paper Towels
- Pasta Sauces Red
& White
- Salad Dressings
- Shampoo /
Conditioner
- Toilet Paper

A letter from our Congregation to WARM

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is excited to support the Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM) as we prepare to help our neighbors in need during the Thanksgiving season.

With the support and approval of our Congregation Council and Social Concerns Team, Grace Lutheran will provide a matching donation for contributions raised by our congregation for WARM during October and November, up to a total of \$1,000.

These gifts will support WARM's Thanksgiving Blessing Bags, helping provide food and essential items to local families and individuals who may be experiencing food insecurity during the holiday season.

We hope this matching opportunity will encourage members of the Grace Lutheran congregation to give generously throughout October and November. By matching these donations, we hope to increase the impact of our congregation's generosity and help make Thanksgiving a little brighter for our neighbors in the Westerville community.

Please let us know if there are specific details, graphics, or promotional materials you would like us to share as we promote this matching opportunity with our congregation.

Thank you for all that WARM does to support our community. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with you and help provide Thanksgiving Blessing Bags to our neighbors in need.

Grace and Peace, Sarah Odum

THANKSGIVING Blessing



On Saturday, November 21, WARM will come together for our annual Thanksgiving Blessing—a chance to ensure our neighbors in need can gather around a table filled with a bountiful holiday meal. This year, the need is greater than ever. In Ohio, 1 in 5 people, including children, struggle with hunger. Together, we can change that story.

You can participate in two powerful ways:

FILL A BAG

Pick up a brown paper bag and fill it with the items on our list below. Each bag costs about \$30–\$40 to fill and provides everything a family needs for a Thanksgiving meal.

- Canned Corn (2-15 oz cans)
- Green Beans (2-15 oz cans)
- Brown Sugar (1-2 lb bag)
- Cranberry Sauce (2 cans)
- Turkey Gravy Mix (2 packets)
- Chicken Broth (1-32 oz box)
- Baked Beans (2-28 oz cans)
- Mini Marshmallows (1 bag)
- Canned Yams (1-40 oz can)
- Stove Top Stuffing (1 box)
- Coffee (10-12 oz bag/can)

GIVE FINANCIALLY

Prefer a simpler option? Make a donation, and we'll shop on your behalf. Every dollar matters:

- \$40 - Provides bag contents *plus* pie, rolls & butter, turkey, and fresh produce
- \$30 - Covers all bag contents
- \$10 - Buys pie, rolls & butter
- \$5 - Buys a pie

Or give any amount you wish and **Grace will match up to \$1,000 donation from the Mission Reserve.*

Make a Donation Today!



Grace will be collecting bags and monetary donations through Sunday, November 8. After November 9, please deliver Thanksgiving Blessing bags directly to:

WARM, 150 Heatherdown Dr., Westerville,

Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, through November 13.

Questions for Grace? Please contact Karen Bale. Questions for WARM? Please contact: 614.899.0196.



NALC Disaster Response Buckets Delivered Service Trip Planned

On Saturday, September 12, Ellen and George Paulus loaded the donated Flood Buckets, supplies and blankets onto the NALC truck to be driven to the Caldwell warehouse for preparation to be shipped to disaster areas around the country. Many thank for all who donated buckets and supplies, and tied the blankets. They were much appreciated.

This coming Saturday, October 3, a group of Grace members will travel to Caldwell. The group will help build a shed, load a 26-foot box truck, fill flood buckets and disaster relief kits, and unpack and sort supplies. Other churches will also be joining in this important work.

If anyone would like to join this group of volunteers, contact Ellen at esppaul32@gmail.com.

The team needs your help. They plan on carpooling to Caldwell at 7:30 am. . Pack a lunch, Ellen has drinks. This is always a great trip and is a great lift to the many who have suffered disasters.

Many thanks, Disaster Response Team



Jim Caldwell
Council Treasurer and
Kairos Prison
Ministry Visitor



Changing Hearts,
Transforming Lives,
Impacting the World

Thank you to all of my Grace bakers. You all baked **144 dozen** cookies towards our team goal of 6,000 dozen. The participants on the weekend truly appreciated that strangers would be kind enough to bake delicious cookies for them.

There is a you tube video called "Cookies Saves Lives". It features an inmate named Stan who was serving a life sentence at Marion Correctional Institution when he attended his Kairos weekend. Stan now is out of prison and works with newly released prisoners as they transition to life outside. I encourage you to watch the video because it will show you just how much impact a cookie can have.

I was fortunate to attend the annual Kairos Conference in July which celebrated the ministry's 50th anniversary. The ministry started because of the work of 9 volunteers. Since 1976 close to 600,000 people have attended a Kairos weekend. Approximately 39,000 volunteers have served in 500 prisons in 37 states and 13 countries. God has truly blessed our ministry.

Prisons all over the country are asking Kairos to bring the program to their facility. The big problem we have is recruiting enough volunteers. There are two prisons that are starting in Ohio next year and are desperately working on recruiting volunteers. If you or someone you know may be interested in volunteering for Kairos please let me know.

Thank you again for the cookies. It is a blessing that I have the support of my church.

Jim Caldwell



Winners of the Church Picnic Bake off. LtoR: Denise Reynard; 3rd place, Linda Hoch' 2nd place, Ellen Paulus; 1st place. The secret ingredient was lemon. The winning recipes will be available in next months Voice of Grace.

The ladies above loaned their ribbons to last years bake off winner Larry Seifert. A reminder that Larry is still Number 1. And 2. And 3. Larry won with Pumpkin.



CROP Hunger Walk Team Steps up to End Hunger and Poverty

from Linda Hoch



The Central Ohio Crop Hunger Walk takes place at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park on Sunday, October 4 with the impact fair at 1pm and step-off at 2pm for the ¾ mile to 3.5 mile walk along with our prayers and donations. For more information, contact Linda Hoch via email (lkgraf102078@earthlink.net) or feel free to call/text at 740-604-1862.

CROP Hunger Walk • Bake Sale & Raffle

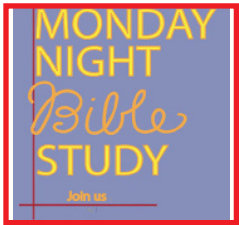
The CROP Hunger Walk Bake sale raised \$707 dollars on Sunday, September 27! Thank you to all who baked yummy treats, made the lovely basket for the raffle, set-up tables, staffed the bake sale, signed up to walk, shared, bought raffle tickets, purchased baked goods, and donated! What a generous congregation we have! Together, as of September 28, team Grace has raised \$1,109 and maximized the matching \$1,000 donation from the mission reserve that Council approved. Donations can still be made at the Gathering Space table and online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/grace-ev-lutheran-church-3> 75% of funds raised in the bake sale and CROP walk support Church World Service's global hunger-relief efforts, while 25% stays local to support organizations including WARM, Mid-Ohio Food Collective, NSI Food Pantry, Westland Ecumenical Community Food Pantry, and Worthington Resource Pantry.



Crop Walk Basket
Raffle winner-
Jodie Arreguin



These 4 young ladies helped make the Crop Walk Bake sale a huge success. Thanks to every baker and every buyer



Monday Evening Bible Study on 1st Corinthians:

Adult study of the Corinthians correspondence began Monday, Sept. 14th, 6:30 and will continue for eight weeks. If you haven't been able to attend, but would like to participate, studies are posted on Pastor David Wendel's YouTube and Facebook pages, usually on Tuesday mornings.



Band of Brothers to meet

Thursday, September 17, 6:30 PM

The monthly gathering of younger/working men will be **Tuesday, October 13, 6:30 PM** at the church. Beginning in November, meetings will take place regularly on the second Thursday of every month. Band of Brothers in November will be Thursday, November 12th and then Thursday, December 10th! - Pr.DW

Grace Sisterhood

Grace Sisterhood's next meeting is **October 12 at 7pm** at The Hoover Bar and Kitchen. We will continue meeting the 2nd Monday of each month (so mark your 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



WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday, Women's Bible study meets at 10:30 am. each week. If you are interested see Pr. David Wendel or email him at d.wendel@grace43081.org



RUTH CIRCLE (Rose Garden 1)

Ruth Circle will next meet at 1pm **Monday, October 12**. Please contact Joanne Figge with any questions.

KATHARINECIRCLE (Rose Garden 2&3)

Katharine Circle will meet on **Monday, October 5** at 1 p.m. at church. Please join us as we begin a new study on Ephesians. Contact Dorothy Crain at 614-264-5304 with questions.



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

NOOMA

Video Series

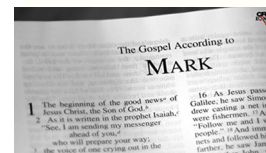
by Rob Bell

Sunday School Series

The adult class began our Fall session on August 30th at 9:45 in the fellowship hall and is facilitated by Bill Kulju.

Our first study is titled "NOOMA" - The word NOOMA is a phonetic spelling of the Greek word pneuma, which means wind or spirit. This study is a series of short Christian films featuring author and speaker Rob Bell. Each short video blends everyday life events with teachings about God, Jesus, and our faith. This series is designed to start discussions rather than provide all the answers.

MEN OF GRACE BIBLE STUDY (Loaves and Fishes Cafe)



Men of Grace Bible Study, **Saturday October 17th, 8 AM**. We are studying the Gospel of Mark, as our lectionary

will begin using Mark's writing as our gospel lessons beginning Advent 1, November 29th. All men of the church (and friends) are invited to join in this monthly study! Contact: Pr. David Wendel -Pr.DW

OCTOBER 2026

BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

8-BARBARA DOLL	21-IAN GAYETSKY
9-PAUL WHITACRE JR	22-REGINA PLACE
9-ATLAS WOODS	28-SUSAN RICHES
10-MARISA BERNHARDT	28-KRISTINA ROAN
11-RINA FRENCH	28-JUDY WIESE
11-JULIE HOTCHKISS	29-KENT PATTERSON
13-JONATHAN BRILL	30-JAMES GOUGHENOUR
13-PHYLLIS DRAKULICH	30-DAVID SCHROEDER
15-MELISSA HODEK	
15-REBECCA YOUNG	
16-BILLY GUGLIEMATTO	
16-BILL RIDDER	
16-DAVID WENDEL	
17-TERI MEISTER	
20-KRISTI GEORGE	
20-LINDA HOCH	
20-LANDEN RUTKOWSKI	
21-AARON BALLY	

NOVEMBER

2-ZIVA FRENCH
3-DAVID ODUM
6-MARIAN RETHERFORD
7-KAREN BALE
7-KAITLIN BERRY
7-MIKE GRUBB
7-CAROLYN REARICK
7-JACKIE WASHBURN

ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

3-JOHN & VICKI MORRISON	34
3-CONNOR & LOU SWANSON	34
6-ERIC & CHERYL BUSH	36
10-LARRY & ANNIE GEHLHAR	56
10-LISA & (STEPHEN) KUJAR	45
10-DAVID & SARAH ODUM	17
11-RANDY & LISA STOLL	29
14-ROBERT & (DONNA) AYERS	19
19-COLEEN & (PAUL) WOOSTER	58
20-AARON & (JACQUELINE) BALLY	14
22-TONYA & CHAD SHINABARGAR	21
25-LORI & (RICHARD) DYCHALA	40
26-ROBERT & ALICIA CRAIN JR	24
23-JIM & JEAN CLAFLIN	58
27-CHRIS & JODIE COONFARE	32
27-ELLEN & GEORGE PAULUS	41
29-AMY & (MICHAEL) QUINN	18

NOVEMBER

1-JEREMY & MIKI CLARK



DEATH

ANNOUNCEMENT

James "Jim" E. Schlea

Born: December 4, 1933

Died in Christ: September 13, 2026

A private family service will be held with Interment at Lake Township Cemetery, Millbury, Ohio.
The complete obituary can be found at

"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." – John 14:2-3



Pray For... Martha Crist, Jan Perry, Cynthia Bertelsen, Terry Riesen, Eddie Hardick, Jan Boughton, Lon Landis, David Doll, Don Melick, Tom Zawodny, Betty Milner, Rod Rice, Sue Ross, Mary Ross, Jim Ross, and the family of Jim Schlea

THANK YOU

From Wanda Bartholomew and family~

"Our heartfelt thanks to Pastor, to Sarah for her video expertise, to the Kitchen Krew for the delicious lunch, to everyone who came to Jim's funeral, and to the Grace community for your kindness.
Your care has meant so much to us."

FLOWERS GIVEN BY

SEPTEMBER 6 • Lisa Kuhar in celebration of daughter-in-law Carrie Kuhar's birthday.

• David and Donna Hahm in honor of daughter Martha who went to heaven Sept. 2, 1996.

SEPTEMBER 13 • Bill and Twyla Ridder in celebration of grandchild Rowen Ridder's birthday.

• Paul and Karen Grant in celebration of our 25th anniversary.

SEPTEMBER 20 • Fred Pfanz in celebration of grandson Milo's birthday.

• Eloise Collier in honor of Mary Jane Fisher

SEPTEMBER 27 • Joe and Shirley Moleno in celebration of our 57th Anniversary.

• Marge Cepek and family in memory of Larry Cepek.

Dartball Season Opens September 3

- from Captain Chris Banks.



The Westerville dartball team started the 2026-27 season strong, posting a 7 - 5 record for the month of September. After falling in the first two games on September 3 to Obetz, the team ran off 7 consecutive wins, including 3 game sweeps of Bethel and Grove City. They

finished up the month on a down note, being swept themselves at 2-time defending champion Reynoldsburg, including a tough loss in game 1 in 10 innings.. There were multiple offensive highlights throughout the month:

- 4 Home Runs by Mike Grubb on opening night
- Andy Laderman hitting for the cycle in Game 2 vs Bethel on September 10
- Dan Morrison hitting for the cycle in Game 3 vs Bethel
- 22 Total hits vs Bethel, 21 total hits vs. Grove City, and 23 vs. Reynoldsburg
- Total of 10 Home runs hit by the team vs. Grove City September 17

Team leaders at the end of the month are

- Andy Laderman - .266 batting average with 21 hits, 8 doubles, 3 triples, and 10 RBIs
- Mike Grubb - 6 Home runs, and 9 runs scored
- Dan Morisson - 3 triples

The team will be home all of October (no games Oct 29), as well as November 12 after a bye week on November 5, and will not hit the road again until November 19. New players are always welcome anytime during the season. If interested, please contact Chris Banks - cbanks5@gmail.com.

Supper Club

Eighteen members of Grace Supper Club dined at Stone Bar and Kitchen on September 17. We were seated adjacent to the restaurant's patio and enjoyed not only the late summer weather, but



an abundance of good conversation and fellowship. In October we have a reservation at The Cheesecake Factory at Polaris on **Thursday, October 15** for 6:15 p.m. The Cheesecake Factory is located at 1566 Polaris Parkway, Columbus 43240. 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. If you have a recommendation for a restaurant, please let either Bev or Tami know. We are always looking for new locations which are willing to seat our group. Any questions, please see either Bev Grubb or Tami Stone.



Southeast Ohio Mission District (SEOMD) Updates

Greetings,

As October fast approaches, here are some updates and reminders for the Southeast Ohio Mission District (SEOMD) Reformation service at Groveport Zion Lutheran Church at 4pm on Sunday, October 25th:

COMBINED CHOIR - We invite any interested members and persons to join in singing the anthem for the SEOMD Reformation Service. The song will be "We Are the Church." Our point of contact for the Combined Choir is Mrs. Kellen Mason, 614-419-2727, kmason0995@gmail.com. Please either have your choir contacts reach out to her for the music or send their contact information to Kellen, and she will reach out to them.

POTLUCK DINNER - Groveport Zion Lutheran is providing the food, so there is no need for anyone to bring anything. Please send me estimated headcounts from your churches for those planning to attend by October 15th so we can plan the food accordingly.

STUFF THE TRUCK - Bring all donations on Sunday, October 25th. Donation and Packing list is attached. We do not have the room to collect and store in advance.

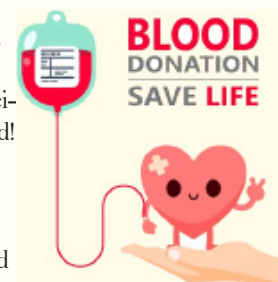
Please share this information with your congregations and let me know if you have any questions. We look forward to celebrating with you on October 25th!

Thank you,

Pastor Paul Sutter

Groveport Zion Lutheran Church

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: Our next Red Cross Blood Drive is **Tuesday, November 17** from noon-6pm in the Gathering Space. Appointments appreciated and walk-ins after 1pm are accepted! You can schedule an appointment by contacting the Red Cross at RedCross-Blood.org and use our sponsor code: GraceLuthWesterville or call 1-800-Red Cross. Questions? See Vanessa Stewart



Children's Busy Bags Available

The Busy Bags, lovingly put together by our young people, and maintained weekly by Carole Smith, are available at the entrance of the sanctuary for our little ones to pick up before worship.

Some of the items that are in the bags are sewing cards, finger puppets, board books, quiet books, Magnadoodles and more! Each week there are different things to do in the bags for the children while they sit with mom and dad during worship. At the end of the service, the youngsters are asked to hang the busy bag back on the tree.



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:

Mon. thru Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Fri. 9 a.m. to Noon

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

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

Helen Kang, Choir Director
h.kang@grace43081.org

Linda Hoch, Organist lkgraf102078@earthlink.net

Sarah Odum, Business Manager

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

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.

Treasurer's Report - from Jim Caldwell, Treasurer

Year to date receipts and disbursements recap.

	AUGUST 2026			YTD 2026		
	Budget	Actuals	Variance	Budget	Actuals	Variance
Receipts	\$52,667	\$ 45,895	(6,771)	\$ 421,333	\$ 403,257	\$(18,076)
Disbursements:	55,958	56,919	(960)	447,667	452,062	(4,395)
Excess(Deficit)	\$(3,292)	\$(11,023)	\$(7,732)	\$(26,333)	\$(48,805)	\$(22,471)

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

Our Grace Congregation Council consists of eight members of the congregation plus Pastor Wendel. Members of Council are elected for two year terms and voting takes place during the November annual meeting. The congregation elects the treasurer. Other officers are elected by the Council. Four members of council will fulfill their terms at the end of 2026 and have agreed to run again, however, if there are others that are interested in being on council, they are welcome and encouraged to step forward.

Grace Council is charged with managing those things related to our vision, mission and finance. Council meets monthly, currently the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Members of Grace are always welcome to attend Council meetings. If you are interested in more information contact a member of Council or the church office. If you are considering running for Council office, please contact Pastor Wendel or Lisa Kuhar (current president) by October 31.

Elected to serve 2024-2026:

Jim Caldwell (treasurer)

Lisa Kuhar

Ted Ray

Greg Rearick

Elected to serve 2026-2028:

Kyle Lamb

Tracey Nave

Ellen Paulus

Jackie Washburn



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 •

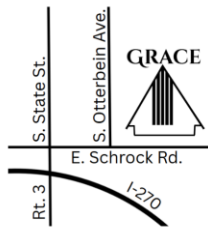
E-mail: info@thenalc.org



GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

100 E. Schrock
Westerville, Ohio 43081
614-882-3026

Visit us on the web at www.Grace43081.org



October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
We envision Grace to be a welcoming, Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries. Worship materials and sermon available online at www.grace43081.org				1 1:00pm Art & Environment 6:30pm Dartball Vs. Rome 7:30pm AA Mtg	2 8:00pm AA Mtg	3 7:30am NALC Service Trip to Caldwell, OH 9:30am AA Mtg 8:00pm AA Mtg
4 Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost/First Fruits/Care Team/Stewardship 8:15 & 11:00am Worship Services 9:40am Sunday School & Confirmation 9:45am Adult Learning 12:30pm Secret Sister Chili Cook Off 1-2pm CROP Impact Fair 2:00pm CROP Hunger Walk@ Scioto Audubon Park	5 1:00pm Katharine Circle 6:30-9pm YPCO Rehearsal 6:30pm Bible Study	6 8:00pm AA Mtg	7 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Ringers 7:00pm Singers 7:30pm Scioto Brass	8 6:30pm Dartball Vs. Epiphany 7:30pm AA Mtg	9 8:00pm AA Mtg	10 9:30am AA Mtg 8:00pm AA Mtg
12 Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost/Stewardship 8:15 & 11:00am Worship Services 9:40am Sunday School & Confirmation 9:40am Sunday School & Confirmation 9:45am Adult Learning 3-5pm GYG	12 1:00pm Ruth Circle 6:30-9pm YPCO Rehearsal 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Grace Sisterhood @ The Hoover	13 Items Due for Oct. 20 Council Mtg. 10:00am Building Mtg 6:30pm Band of Brothers 8:00pm AA Mtg	14 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Ringers 7:00pm Singers 7:30pm Scioto Brass	15 6:15pm Supper Club 6:30pm Dartball Vs. Bethel 7:30pm AA Mtg	16 8:00pm AA Mtg	17 8:00am Men of Grace 9:30am AA Mtg 8:00pm AA Mtg
18 St. Luke's Day/Stewardship 8:15 & 11:00am Worship Services 9:40am Sunday School & Confirmation 9:45am Adult Learning Collection of Candy and Prizes for and Trunk Ends 12:30pm Set-up: Trunk or Treat 2-4pm Trunk or Treat	19 1:00pm Senior "Social Moments" 7:30pm Amazing Grace Concert Series presents Youth Philharmonic of Central Ohio 6:30pm Bible Study	20 6:30pm Council Mtg. 7:00pm Youth, Family, & Education Mtg. 8:00pm AA Mtg	21 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Ringers 7:00pm Singers 7:30pm Scioto Brass	22 10:00am Staff Mtg. 6:30pm Dartball Vs. Grace 7:00pm Music and Worship 7:30pm AA Mtg	23 8:00pm AA Mtg	24 9-11am Red Cross 1st Aid Class 9:30am AA Mtg 8:00pm AA Mtg
25 Reformation Sunday/Commitment Sunday/Ministry Fair 8:15 & 11:00am Worship Services 9:40pm Ministry Fair 9:40am Sunday School & Confirmation 9:45am Adult Learning 3-5pm GYG WARM Thanksgiving Blessing Bags Begin	26 1:00pm Euchre Group 6:30pm Bible Study	27 8:00pm AA Mtg	28 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Ringers 7:00pm Singers 7:30pm Scioto Brass	29 7:30pm AA Mtg	30 8:00pm AA Mtg	31 9:30am AA Mtg 8:00pm AA Mtg

Grace

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<http://www.facebook.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranWesterville>



Place address label here

We are a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church



The autumn equinox has arrived, bringing shorter days, earlier sunsets and a reminder that another clock change is approaching. We are scheduled to turn our clocks back one hour on **Sunday, Nov. 1**, when daylight saving time ends across most of the country.

Little Lambs Children's Ministry



Serves children ages 3 through 3rd grade, providing a fun, age-appropriate Bible lesson during the 8:15 AM and 11:00 AM worship service. Children leave after the Gospel reading and return during the offering for Holy Communion. We are currently seeking caring and committed leaders to help

guide our Little Lambs each Sunday at our 11:00 AM service. If you enjoy working with children and sharing God's love in a meaningful way, we'd love to have you join the team!