

# THE VOICE OF GRACE

DECEMBER 2023

WWW.GRACE43081.ORG

*"The greatest and most momentous fact which the history of the world records is the fact of Christ's birth." ~Charles H. Spurgeon*



## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Sunday, Dec. 3

Reception for Pr. Matt and Debbie Cox after both services  
Nativity Showcase

### Wednesday, Dec. 6

6:00 pm: Dinner by Kitchen Krew  
7:00 pm: Advent Service

### Friday, Dec. 8

Westerville Habitat Partnership  
Progressive Christmas Concert

### Sunday, Dec. 10

10:00 am Worship and Installation of Pr. David Wendel (Reception to follow)  
3:30 pm A Joyful Noise!  
Community Concerts present  
Scioto Valley Brass & Percussion

### Wednesday, Dec. 13

6:00 pm: Dinner by Altar Guild  
7:00 pm: Advent Service

### Sunday, Dec. 17

8:30 am Service of Word & Sacrament  
Youth Christmas Program during 11:00 am Service

### Wednesday, Dec. 20

6:00 pm - Dinner by Youth and Family  
7:00 pm: Advent Service

### Sunday, Dec. 24

10:00 am (Fourth Sunday in Advent)  
5:00 pm and 8:00 pm  
Christmas Eve Services

### Monday, December 25

10:00 am - Christmas Day Service



## Youth Christmas Program, Sunday, December 17, 11am service:

"A Prophet Foretold the Messiah" is a Christmas Pageant that focuses on the biblical story of the nativity, told in poetic verse form. Join us as the youth of Grace bring the story of Jesus' birth, foretold by prophets and angels, to life with songs and verse. We will celebrate with cookies and hot chocolate after the service in loaves and fishes cafe.

**Wednesday Advent Services** will follow *Holden Evening Prayer* by Marty Haugen and include a meditation each week. Services begins at 7 pm on Dec. 6, 13 and 20. A light dinner will be served beginning at 6 pm before the service.

## Installation Reception for Pr. David Wendel

All are invited to a reception celebrating the installation of Pr. David Wendel at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sunday, December 10 after the 10 am installation service. The reception will be catered by Westerville Grille and include scrambles, biscuits, and fruit. A free will offering will be collected in order to defray the cost. **RSVP is requested to plan for food and seating by Sunday, Dec. 3.** There are three ways to sign up to attend through Sign Up Genius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D44AEAF2CAAFA7-46232468-prwendel>), by calling the church office (614-882-3026) with your name and number attending, or at the Welcome Desk. We look forward to this time of Fellowship as we welcome Pr. David Wendel and Susan to Grace!

## Reception for Pr. Matt and Debbie Cox

Pastor Matt has served Grace as the interim Senior Pastor over the last year and a half during the Call Process. All are invited to a cake reception to be held after each service on Dec. 3 in honor of Pr. Matt Cox and Debbie. A card box will be at the cake table for anyone who would like to place a card or letter in the box at the cake table in the Loaves and Fishes café on Sunday, Dec. 3 when he will be presiding over his last service at Grace.



## What is Advent?

The church divides the year into different seasons that emphasize the life of Christ and the life of the church. Beginning on Sunday, December 3, 2023, we will enter the season of the church year called Advent. Advent is the season of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas, and continuing to Epiphany January 6, 2024.

The focus of Advent is two-fold. On the one hand, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came into the world as both God and Man so that our sins might be forgiven. On the other hand, we anticipate the day when Jesus will return to Earth and bring an end to this world. Those will be scary days, but we can look forward to the end of the world with hope because through faith in Jesus, the end of this world will mean the beginning of a new life with Christ for eternity.

Advent, then, is a time for us to repent and believe. Knowing that Jesus was born to forgive our sins, we repent (admit our failures to God) and believe that we are forgiven because of the death and resurrection of Jesus on our behalf. Also, knowing that Jesus is coming back, we repent and believe that when He returns, He will give us eternal life.

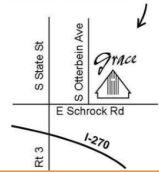


To our guests

**WELCOME TO GRACE**  
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

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.

You're invited! Here's how to find us.



## 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](mailto:office@grace43081.org) • Website: [www.grace43081.org](http://www.grace43081.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranWesterville](https://facebook.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranWesterville)

Grace Lutheran has been serving the Westerville community for more than 114 years, 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 four AA groups (*Tuesday, 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](mailto:d.wendel@grace43081.org)  
719-650-8171

Molly King, Director of Youth and Family Ministries  
614-581-6675 [m.king@grace43081.org](mailto:m.king@grace43081.org)

Jeff Daubenmire, Director of Music  
[music@grace43081.org](mailto:music@grace43081.org)

Linda Hoch, Organist [lkgraf102078@earthlink.net](mailto:lkgraf102078@earthlink.net)

Sarah Odum, Business Manager  
[s.odum@grace43081.org](mailto:s.odum@grace43081.org)

Debbie Yoho, Financial Manager  
[d.yoho@grace43081.org](mailto:d.yoho@grace43081.org)

Jon Sweet, Facilities Manager  
[facility@grace43081.org](mailto:facility@grace43081.org)

Maria Laderman, Director, Bell Choir  
[laderman522@yahoo.com](mailto:laderman522@yahoo.com)

Fred Pfanz, Sacristan [Pfanz1@aol.com](mailto:Pfanz1@aol.com)

John Kleberg, Archivist [archives@grace43081.org](mailto:archives@grace43081.org)

Tom Seamon, Editor - Voice of Grace  
[seatom5853@gmail.com](mailto:seatom5853@gmail.com)



### 2023 Church Council

President Jim Caldwell  
614-361-6631 [jtcfms@aol.com](mailto:jtcfms@aol.com)

Vice President Julie Young  
614-572-4522 [youngja82@gmail.com](mailto:youngja82@gmail.com)

Treasurer Melissa Hodek  
330-416-7705 [melissa.hodek@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.hodek@gmail.com)

Secretary Tami Banks  
614-302-9021 [tami.banks@gmail.com](mailto:tami.banks@gmail.com)

Pastor Pr. David Wendel  
719-650-8171 [d.wendel@grace43081.org](mailto:d.wendel@grace43081.org)

### Members at Large:

Lisa Kuhar [lisakuhar@gmail.com](mailto:lisakuhar@gmail.com)  
614-818-3975

Andy Laderman [aladerman79@gmail.com](mailto:aladerman79@gmail.com)  
614-565-7396

Ted Ray [teray55@msn.com](mailto:teray55@msn.com)  
614-886-8272

Becky Seifert [seifertbecky@yahoo.com](mailto:seifertbecky@yahoo.com)  
614-378-6023

### Worship Services

#### Holy Communion

EVERY Sunday Morning

Two Worship Services: 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

#### Sunday School

Youth Sunday School classes K-5  
9:45 to 10:45 upstairs in the Preschool Room.

#### Confirmation and High School

9:45 to 10:45. Basement Youth Room

#### Adult Learning

9:45 a.m. Fellowship Hall

#### The Nursery

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



North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

The 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 disci-  
ples in North America and around the globe.

Learn more about Grace and the NALC.

Phone: +1 888 551 7254 •

E-mail: [info@thenalc.org](mailto:info@thenalc.org) Website: [thenalc.org](http://thenalc.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.

### From the Treasurer:

**Recap of our MTD and YTD receipts and disbursements.**

	OCTOBER 2023		YTD 2023	
	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Actuals
Receipts	\$ 50,346	\$ 52,970	\$ 503,460	\$ 441,870
Disbursements:	\$ 50,346	\$ 46,553	\$ 503,460	\$ 460,542
		\$ 6,416		\$ (18,671)

NOTE: An over-  
view of the 2024  
Estimate of  
Spending that was  
approved at the  
Annual Meeting  
can be found on  
Page 4.

Full Treasurer's Reports can be requested from either Melissa Hodek at [melissa.hodek@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.hodek@gmail.com) or from the Church Office. If you have questions please contact any member of Council.

### Service Recording:

The recorded 8:30 am service  
will be available  
at noon  
[www.grace43081.org](http://www.grace43081.org)

### Loaves and Fishes Café

Stop in between services. There is a sign-up  
sheet in the café if you are interested in help-  
ing. Please call Regina Place, 614-623-1452  
or Vanessa Stewart, 614-588-2712 with  
questions or concerns.

# Advent Message From the Pastor



Pastor David Wendel

Dear friends in Christ,

As I complete my NALC commitments the first Sunday in Advent, Susan and I are more than ready to be present with you at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Westerville! As Jim Caldwell mentioned in an earlier communication, it seems altogether right and proper to formally begin our relationship as pastor and people near the beginning of the church year—Advent and Christmas!

As much as I cherish Christmas, I also love Advent and especially the wonderful Advent hymns that call to mind the many ways that Christ comes—in the past at Bethlehem, in the present in Word and Sacrament, and in the future as King of kings and Lord of lords. One particularly meaningful hymn is “*Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*”. I especially appreciate the stanza which talks about our joy at Christ’s presence:

*Now let all the heav’ns adore you, And  
saints and angels sing before you.  
The harps and cymbals all unite. Of one  
pearl each shining portal,  
Where, dwelling with the choir immortal,  
We gather round your dazzling light.  
No eye has seen, no ear Has yet been  
trained to hear.  
What joy is ours! Crescendos rise; your halls resound;  
Hosannas blend in cosmic sound.*

Do we, as Christians, truly appreciate “what joy is ours!”? As we approach Christmas, we often get warm and fuzzy feelings as we think about the birth of the baby of Bethlehem. But do we experience joy—true joy, because Christ comes to us, is born in us every Sunday? The gift of the incarnation of Jesus Christ is not an event to be celebrated but once a year on December 25th—Christ becomes incarnate in flesh and blood—for us, each and every Sunday as His Word is proclaimed and the bread and wine of the Lord’s Supper become His real presence among us. That’s why we gather in the sanctuary each Sunday, surrounded by saints and angels—the choir immortal, gathering round His dazzling light with crescendos rising, His hall resounding as hosannas blend in cosmic sound! This is what Christian worship is—and why we gather faithfully each Sunday to receive the Christ who comes to us—in Word and Sacrament. This is why St. Paul encourages us not to neglect to meet together on the Lord’s Day, as is the habit of some (Hebrews 10:25).

As we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas, we claim the joy that is ours as we meet together and celebrate His coming to us in the means of grace each and every Sunday. It is the Lord’s Day—we gather round His dazzling light with the choir immortal—our hosannas blending with

theirs in cosmic sound! It has been a blessing to work together with worship and music leaders at Grace, planning for Advent and Christmas services! Please have our special Advent and Christmas services on your calendar and consider inviting family, friends and neighbors to worship with us! Christmas is a time when those who are unchurched, unaffiliated and/or unbelievers are most open to an invitation to Christmas worship, where they may experience the Light of Christ in the midst of this sometimes dark and joyless world!

**Advent III, December 17th: 8:30 AM Service of Word and Sacrament. 11 AM Service of Word and Sacrament with Christmas Pageant, “*Prophets Foretold It*” as the message!**

**2023 Advent IV, December 24th 10 AM:** With Christmas Eve falling on Sunday, we will observe the Fourth Sunday in Advent with a special Advent Service of the Word with Lessons and Advent Carols! We will complete our lighting of the Advent wreath with the fourth candle and join together in a series of scriptural prophecies, related Advent hymn verses, sermon and Advent Litany of Preparation. Although we will celebrate the birth of our Savior at our evening services on Christmas Eve, we will bring Advent to a close with this meaningful service of hope and expectation!

**Christmas Eve, December 24th 5 PM:** The Nativity of our Lord Children’s/Family Christmas Service will be a somewhat simplified Holy Communion liturgy with candle-light and carols! We will light candles singing Silent Night, as the Christmas Gospel is read, proclaiming the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world! Children will be led to another room to hear and see a wonderful age-appropriate Christmas book proclaiming the good news of Jesus’ birth, *’Twas the Night*, by William Dean, illustrated by Sarah Lowe. At the same time, Pastor Wendel will preach the Christmas sermon in the sanctuary. After sermon and story, children will return as the service continues with the liturgy of the Lord’s Supper. Our worship will be heightened by special music and singing!

**Christmas Eve, December 24th, 8 PM:** The Nativity of our Lord will be celebrated with a festive service of Word and Sacrament with music, singing, carols and Holy Communion. The service will begin with a chanted Proclamation of the Birth of Christ, from an ancient martyrology and we will worship using Setting 1 of the Lutheran Book of Worship. We will light candles during the singing of Silent Night, as the Christmas Gospel is read, proclaiming the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world! Pastor Wendel will preach the Christmas sermon titled, *Dark Christmas and the Light of Christ!* As always, we will be blessed by special music and singing!

**Christmas Day, December 25th, 10 AM:** We will gather on Christmas Day to celebrate the Word made flesh to dwell among us! As Christmas Eve finds us gathered around the stable and manger, witnessing the baby born in Bethlehem, Christmas morning focuses our attention on the meaning of the Incarnation—that God became human in Jesus Christ, for us and for our salvation! Again, we will worship using LBW Setting 1, with lots of carols and Holy Communion!





## The highlights of the November Council meeting are as follows:

- Joanne Figge gave an update to the Council on the Social Concerns ministries.
- Council continued planning for the installation and luncheon for Pastor Wendel on December 10.
- Jon Sweet provided Council with an update on the facilities projects, including the HVAC repairs and the continuing work on the lighting, tree work, and roof repair issues.
- Council approved Nelson Grover and Jackie Washburn as new candidates for Council to present to the congregation for voting at the congregational meeting.
- Melissa Hodek presented the projected giving and expenses for 2024 that will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.
- For the month of October, receipts exceeded expenses by 6,416. For the year, expenses exceeded receipts by \$18,671.

*Respectfully submitted by Tami Banks, Secretary*

## News from Arts and Environment

*from Sue Mahrt*

### Nativity Fair

For those who are participating in the Nativity Fair, place your Nativities in the Cry Room on the tables provided by December 1. We are excited to see the different versions.



From December 3 through December 10, visit the display and enjoy the many ways the Christmas story is portrayed.

On December 10th pick up your contribution. Thanks for sharing and being part of this presentation.

### Hanging of the Greens

On December 9, beginning at 9:00, we will be transforming our church for the Christmas season. Extra help is always needed and appreciated. What better way is there to get into the Christmas Spirit? If you can spare an hour or more, please join us. No experience is necessary.

### Poinsettias

The poinsettia order forms are due on December 10. If you do not want a poinsettia, but would like to help, you can contribute a monetary donation. These flowers add a welcome and festive touch to our worship space.



### Flowers for 2024:

Flowers at Grace can honor a special event, remember a loved one or simply give glory to God. You may sign up at the welcome center, on-line or call the office. The actual cost of flowers has increased to \$75.00 a Sunday. The suggested donation will now be \$30. Since that does not cover the cost, this donation is not to purchase flowers for your own, but contribute for the enjoyment of all. After the service, the arrangement is moved to the welcome center for the following week to enhance our space even longer.



### Church Directory *from Eric Bush*

Anyone who did not receive their 2023 Church Directory can pick one up in the Church office. I am happy to report that the donations for the printing and binders more than covered the only two expenses. It was great to see the response the congregation had to the project and it helped the top line instead of hurting the bottom line.

## GIVING ONLINE

*From the Treasurer - Melissa Hodek*

Have you realized you are writing fewer and fewer checks just because it is easier to pay online? You can give online to Grace as well! Grace uses a vendor called Vanco that specializes in safe and secure online giving for many different types of organizations. Some common questions are answered here:

- 1) You can donate to our normal operating budget as well as to other funds, such as Habitat for Humanity, WARM, or the Facilities Reserve Fund, among others.
- 2) You can give using a debit/credit card, checking, or savings accounts.
- 3) You can give one time or set up recurring payments.

Have you been curious about online giving but didn't know how it worked or needed help signing up to make sure you get it right?

The link id is accessible through Grace's website:

<https://www.grace43081.org/giving.html>. Or reach out directly to me at [melissa.hodek@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.hodek@gmail.com) and I will make sure you have what you need.

## An overview of the 2024 Estimate of Spending

### Projected Receipts \$560,000

We serve through our ministries of:

Music & Worship	16.73%	103,200
Youth & Family and Learning	10.38%	64,000
Social Concerns	5.03%	31,000
Hospitality & Invitation	5.72%	35,300
Administration & Operations	62.15%	383,350
<b>Estimated Spending</b>		<b>616,850</b>
<b>Estimated Receipts vs Spending</b>		<b>\$ (56,850)</b>

The shortfall will be covered from the Mission Fund (as necessary) with an additional \$80,000 of building improvements and repairs being paid for out of the Facility Reserve Fund.





# 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.

### A Prophet Foretold the Messiah A Christmas Pageant



Written by Kelly Hanson

### Christmas Pageant - Sunday, December 17th

Our Christmas pageant this year focuses on the biblical story of the nativity. The Bible tells us that Jesus' birth was foretold by prophets and angels. He was the prophet of all prophets.

Dress Rehearsal Saturday, December 16 from 9:00 am to 12:00.

**The Christmas program will be December 17th during the 11:00 service.**

After the service we will have cookies and hot chocolate for **everyone** to celebrate the children.



Join **Freedom a la Cart** in providing warm socks to include in bags of restoration for survivors of human trafficking in our community! The socks will be part of the Christmas bags that are being put together for the survivors. Donations of new socks will be collected in a bin in the Gathering space. **The last day to donate them is Sunday, December 3.** Our goal is 75 pairs of socks.



### Alpaca from World Vision

This Fall,



**Sunday School's offering is being collected to purchase an Alpaca from World Vision.**

The cost to purchase an Alpaca is \$360. Sunday school will continue to collect money for the Alpaca and the children will turn in their Advent offering boxes on Saturday, December 16th at the dress rehearsal.



**Christmas Caroling December 3rd has been canceled.**



### Saturday, January 6 Blue Jackets vs Minnesota Wild

The puck drops at 7 pm. Join Grace for an evening of fun and fellowship as we watch the Columbus Blue Jackets take on the Minnesota Wild. Tickets

are \$39 and will be in the Mezzanine level. Sign-up at the welcome desk by Dec. 28. Questions? Contact Molly King.



What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give Him?  
Give Him my heart.  
Christina Georgina Rossetti, Circa 1870



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

On Sunday, November 12th, students from the Sunday School classes met in fellowship hall and organized the 83 boxes that were collected for Samaritan's Purse. We delivered the boxes to the **Operation Christmas Child** collection location. The money collected from the M&M candy containers will pay for the shipping to send your gift boxes on their journey to bring good news and great joy to children around the world! Thank you to all who filled boxes, donated money for shipping, volunteered, prayed over and supported this years collection! YOU'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!







### Intercessory Prayers Confidentiality from Donna Dettmann

When you put a prayer request in the locked Prayer Chest you have 17 additional people seeking God's will to answer your prayer. Intercessory prayer is available for everyone, all ages. Prayers are welcome for family, friends, co-workers, travel, health, safety, surgery, guidance on a decision, school, thanksgiving for an answered prayer and so much more.

**Confidentiality is a priority** for intercessors. That means we do not discuss any of our prayers with anyone – not even other prayer team members.

There are 2 ways to ask for prayers:

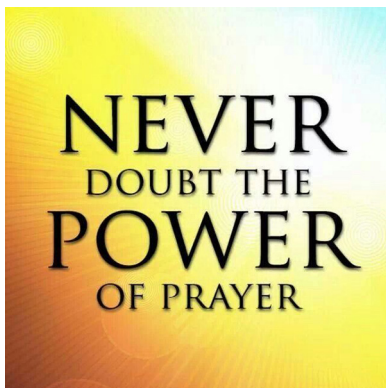
1. The locked prayer chest at the back of the church on a table with prayer request forms and pens.

2. Prayer requests can be sent through the Grace website: <https://www.grace43081.org/prayerpage>

The link is found on the right hand side of the first page of the website. Only the IPT leaders have access to your prayer requests.

Are you interested in being part of the Intercessory Prayer Team?

Joanne Figge at [jcfigge@gmail.com](mailto:jcfigge@gmail.com) or 614 -207-1061 – or - Donna Dettmann at [donnadett@aol.com](mailto:donnadett@aol.com) or 703-447-7760



### Dartball Team December Schedule

from Team Captain Robert Bassett Contact Robert at 419.236.4293



or [rgbassettiii@gmail.com](mailto:rgbassettiii@gmail.com) with any questions. Upcoming matches: 12/7 at Reynoldsburg 12/14 at Grace

### 2023's LAST BLOOD DRIVE AT GRACE REPORT

Here's the recap from the November 14th blood drive; the last drive of 2023. We had 44 presenting donors and collected 38 units, including 1 power red cell procedure (2 units). This is a little smaller turnout than usual but considering the time of year, it was still good and is certainly helpful. These units have the potential to save more than 38 lives. Thanks to everyone who donated and helped with this important service to our community.

**Our next drive is set for Tues. 1/16/24.**

Direct any questions/concerns to Vanessa Stewart.

### Supper Club Takes Hiatus in December



Grace Supper Club enjoyed its dinner outing

at The Whitney House last month. Supper Club is taking a hiatus for the month of December, but look for information in the Voice of Grace newsletter or Sunday bulletins for January's restaurant location. We meet on the third Thursday of the month, so be sure to mark your calendar. Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. Any questions, please see either Bev Grubb or Tami Stone.



**Yarn Matters:** Yarn Matters will not meet in December due to the holiday. Our next get together will be Tuesday, January 23rd at 6:30 in Rose Garden 1. We hope you start your New Year with a new hobby and join us to chat and work with yarn! Call Jodi Arreguin 614-946-3344 if you have questions.

### REPORTS FROM OUR SERVICE PERSONNEL

MSG Rick Arreguin and his fellow soldiers appreciate the donations of cake, brownie, and cookie box mixes! They will use the mixes to do some baking during the holiday season. While things are a bit tense in the area, Rick and his unit are all safe and sound. Continued prayers for their safety as well as navigating holidays away from home are greatly appreciated.



**78 box mixes donated and shipped.**



### Corporal Sean Coonfare, USMC

is stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA. Corporal Coonfare is a helicopter mechanic and currently deployed in Okinawa.



Continue to pray for Sean and Rick and all our military personnel and first responders.

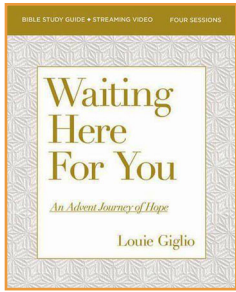
*Ed. Note: Is a member of your family serving in the Armed Forces? You are invited to share family service personnel stories by sending them to: [seatom5853@gmail.com](mailto:seatom5853@gmail.com).*



# ADULT BIBLE STUDIES



## THE WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY (Fellowship Hall)



The women's Bible study meets in Fellowship Hall every Wednesday Morning at 10:30 a.m. The current study is: "Waiting Here For You, An Advent Journey of Hope" by Louie Giglio. Louie Giglio reminds us that it's in the richness of Advent- a season of expectant waiting and preparation that we find our answer. It's throughout this waiting season

that we prepare our hearts to greet December 25th with joy, peace, hope, and refreshed promise in our newborn King. Contact Molly King, m.king@grace43081.org, with queries.

## SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS (Fellowship Hall)

In volume 14, "The Mission of Jesus", Discover how Jesus triumphantly made God's presence known on earth, and how he asks you to do the same – bringing God's Peace to the chaos of others.



Renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan guides you through the lands of the Bible. In each lesson, Vander Laan illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures. Filmed on location in the Middle East, the "THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW" film series will transform your understanding of God

and challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus.

This new session will begin on November 5th. The class is led by Bill Kulju and meets between worship services at 9:45 in Fellowship Hall.

## RUTH CIRCLE (Rose Garden 1)



Ruth circle will be meeting at Carfagna's Ristorante on Monday, Dec. 11th at 1:00 p.m. for our Christmas luncheon. We will be meeting in the Vasto Room. The address for the restaurant is: 1440 Gemini Place. We are looking forward to seeing everyone.

Please join us. If you have questions, call Dorothea Fuhrman at 614-205-8111.

## NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Contact Denise Reynard at denise.reynard@rocketmail.com or 614-800-1725 if you have any questions or need further information on dates, times and subject matter of studies.



## KATHARINE CIRCLE (Rose Garden 2&3)

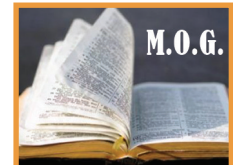


Katharine Circle will meet Monday, December 4, at the church at 1:00 p.m. We are doing a study on "God's Reluctant Leaders." During this year we are focusing on Jonah, Gideon, and Moses. Shirely Hodek will lead session 4 this month entitled: "Protecting God". All women are invited to

join us. Please contact Dorothy Crain with any questions - 614-264-5304.

## THE MEN OF GRACE - M.O.G. (Loaves and Fishes Cafe')

The Men of Grace will not meet in December. Watch for announcements in the bulletin as to when we will meet again.



## Book Fair Offers Quality Reading Material in Time for Christmas

Grace is partnering with **Cover to Cover**, a Columbus bookstore specializing in books for young readers, to offer Grace members and friends an opportunity to purchase quality classic and new literature for young people, toddlers to young adults. The list of books offered has been carefully curated with Grace members in mind.

We are hosting a hybrid sale, in which books can be ordered **either on-line or in person**.

• From November 27 through December 4, you can order on-line, using this link: <https://www.covertocoverchildrensbooks.com/grace-evangelical-lutheran-church-book-sale>

• **On Saturday, December 2, from noon to 2:00 p.m., you can stop by the church to see and order the books that will be on display, with knowledgeable staff present to answer questions.**

Buying from Cover to Cover contributes 20% of purchases to Grace to buy books for the Sunday School and nursery—and helps keep independent bookstores in business. Other book and in-store purchases during that week can count toward Grace's credit—be sure to note that when checking out.

Book orders will be delivered to the church office for pickup on December 21 and 22.



"God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer



# Music Notes

By Jeff Daubenmire,  
Director of Music Ministries  
music@grace43081.org



This past month the Music Ministry featured much of the talent that makes music at Grace so special. The Youth Choir continues to provide anthems with enthusiastic voices of our talented young people with instrumental accompaniment. The Chancel Choir provides beautifully sung anthems for worship. The Bell Choir performs unique pieces that provide instrumental offerings. Many talented individuals provide solos for special music, communion, and gathering music. The Joyful Noise Concert Series provides periodic concerts like the one we witnessed with Nick Cosgrove's Christmas concert and CD release. There is much to be grateful for at Grace and the Music Ministry continues to be a blessing thanks to the gifts and dedication of the many talented people at Grace. As we begin Advent, we are thankful for the past year and look forward to the many new beginnings that we are about to witness.

- Jeff Daubenmire



## All Saints Sunday November 5, 2023

### PRELUDE

*"Jerusalem, My Happy Home"*

Linda Hoch - Organ  
*"Remembering"*

Grace Ringers Bell Choir

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"For All the Saints"*

Grace Ringers Bell Choir

### COMMUNION MUSIC

Selected Communion Music  
by Larry Seifert

### POSTLUDE

*"For All the Saints"*

Linda Hoch - Organ



## 24th Sunday after Pentecost November 12, 2023

### PRELUDE

*"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"*

- Linda Hoch - Organ

*"Oh Happy Day When We Shall Stand"*

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"The Water Is Wide"*

Maria Laderman - Flute,  
Linda Hoch - Piano

### COMMUNION MUSIC

*"Morning Has Broken"*

Maria Laderman - Flute,  
Linda Hoch - Piano

### POSTLUDE

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

Linda Hoch - Organ

## Christ the King Sunday November 26, 2023

### PRELUDE

*"Beautiful Savior"*

*"Crown Him with Many Crowns"*

Linda Hoch - Organ

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"*

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

### COMMUNION MUSIC

*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

Martha Crist and Linda Hoch  
Piano Duet

### POSTLUDE

*"Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"*

Linda Hoch - Organ



## 25th Sunday after Pentecost November 19, 2023

### PRELUDE

8:30 *"Meditation on I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

*"Gather Us In"* Linda Hoch- organ

11:00 *"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"* Grace Youth Choir

### SPECIAL MUSIC

8:30 *"Assurance"* Grace Singers Chancel Choir

11:00 *"Now Thank We All Our God"* Robin Buser - Piano

### COMMUNION MUSIC

*"We Gather Together"*

*"Praise to the Lord the Almighty"*

Robin Buser - Piano

### POSTLUDE

*"Come, Thou Almighty King"*

Linda Hoch - Organ



**Grace Chancel Choir rehearsals** are 7:00-8:15 PM on Wednesdays. Contact Jeff Daubenmire with questions or interest in singing.

**Grace Youth Choir rehearsals** are Sundays 9:30-9:45 AM. Contact Jeff Daubenmire, Director of Music Ministries.

**Grace Ringers Bell Choir rehearsals** are Wednesdays, 6:15-7PM. Contact Maria Laderman with questions or interest in ringing.



**The 13th Annual Progressive Christmas Concert**  
**Friday, December 8, 7:00 – 9:15 pm**

**Join the Westerville community for a joyous night of food and music to celebrate the Christmas season.**

There will be a concert at all 3 of the Uptown Westerville churches;

- First Presbyterian on E. College Ave, • Church of the Master at Grove & Main • Messiah on N. State •

**(This year Grace's Choir will be at Church of the Master)**

At the end of each concert you will be led as a group to the next church for another concert.

Tickets are \$15.00

**"Soup for Shelter"**

Before the Concerts, between 5:00 - 7:00 PM, have a delicious bowl of soup and pick a great handmade bowl for \$20 at the Otterbein Campus Center.

The Columbus Academy students do a fantastic job on the bowls and the soup is delicious.



All proceeds from the concerts and soup supper benefit Habitat for Humanity building projects.

Tickets for both will be available at Grace before or after services or on line at

**[Westervillehabitatpartnership.org](http://Westervillehabitatpartnership.org)**

**The night of the concert, tickets may also be purchased at one of the three churches.**

Joyful Noise  
 Community Concerts  
**Sunday, December 10th**  
**3:30 p.m.**



**The Scioto Valley Brass & Percussion Company Presents**



*It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year!!!*

Everyone is Invited to this Christmas Musical Delight Under the Direction of Dr. Christopher Hoch



**NICK COSGROVE IN CONCERT**

*Home for the Holidays*

On Sunday, November 19th, Grace was the Venue for this latest of our Community Concert Series. It was Nick Cosgrove's debut album, Home for the Holidays.

The crowd at Grace that afternoon appreciated the wonderful music. A meet and greet session was held after the concert.

*Next up: Sunday, December 10, 3:30 p.m. - Scioto Brass and Percussion.*



Accompanying Nick Cosgrove - L to R: Jeff Daubenmire; piano, Sammy Gurgiolo; Trumpet, Cora Kuyvenhoven; Cello, William Mayer; drums and percussion, Aaron Schwartz; Violin.

**A Gift for Pastor Cox**

On Monday, November 27th, the Church Staff and volunteers presented Pastor Cox a few gifts as a thank you for his leadership the past year and a half.



Pastor Matt greatly appreciated the gift card to Oakland Nursery, Shirley's popcorn and travel book! He was very touched!





# Our First Fruits

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.

## RECEIPTS FOR WARM

From Debbie Yoho, Financial Manager

Since the last report, new receipts for WARM were **\$1,040.** for a total of **\$12,236.00** donated to WARM in 2023 toward the congregational annual \$10,000 pledge.

*Make Checks Payable to: Grace Lutheran Church, memo notation for WARM. Blessings to all who are making this a part of your regular tithes and offerings.*

You donated 30 Thanksgiving bags (560 lbs.) for the THANKSGIVING BLESSING drive. The monetary gifts for the Thanksgiving Blessing totaled \$1,530 which includes a matching \$765 contribution from the Mission Reserve Fund. This gift was matched by a \$1,530 gift from CODREA Financial Services.

The CROP WALK receipts totaled \$2,740 including a contribution of \$1,000 from the Mission Reserve Fund.

The monthly FOOD/HYGIENE total from the grocery carts was 242 lbs., which brings the yearly total to 3,345 lbs.

*Your generosity is a wonderful example of Grace's concern for others.*



## Salvation Army Angel Tree Toy Drive Underway

The Christmas Angel Tree is on display in the Gathering Space. Each year Grace helps disadvantaged children by buying gifts for them. This is done by selecting a tag or two for a boy or girl, purchasing a gift (suggestion on the tag), and placing it unwrapped under the tree with the tag attached to the gift.

The Salvation Army will collect the gifts after our last service Sunday, December 10. The gifts will then be wrapped and distributed to the kids. With your help, the goal is to have all 100 tags taken and returned so that a smile can be put on many faces this Christmas morning!



## Cut out and collect these items for the DECEMBER First Fruits

### Grocery Carts

Any of these items are greatly appreciated. Thank you again for your support of WARM and the Westerville Community

- Tissues, Diapers
- Sugar – granulated, brown, powdered
- Coffee, Raisins
- Alfredo Sauce
- Soft Soap (liquid hand soap)
- Fruit juices (other than apple)
- Jello/Pudding Mixes
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste



**Place ONLY non-perishable items into grocery carts.** W.A.R.M. cannot accept food past its expiration date. Any fresh produce, baked goods and dairy products take directly to WARM. 150 Heatherdown Dr. Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

If you have questions about Grace's First Fruits Ministry, please call Karen Bale at 614-506-3331.

## Care Team Report

from Margie Zimmermann

The Care Team continues to offer Holy Communion to those who are not able to regularly attend Sunday morning services.



If you find yourself with a long term or temporary wish to have communion brought to you, please call the church office and make a request.

We have made Funeral Plan Worksheets available to anyone who would like. There is a green folder in the entrance to the sanctuary with ideas to help your family members when making decisions. It can be utilized in any way it is helpful to you.

The Care Notes continue to be available at the welcome center. They are changed regularly/seasonally.

During this advent season, we have advent devotionals, flowers and puzzles for our shut-ins.

We look forward to working with Pastor Wendel and are grateful for the guidance we have had from Pastor Matt.

# DECEMBER 2023

## REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Diane Boone, Joe Moleno,  
Betty Lou Milner, Janis Boughton, Evelyn  
Boughton, Grace Sima, Rod Rice,  
Don Slemmer, Jan Perry, John Moffett,  
Rick Arreguin, Bob Bower, Barbara Muller,  
Clarence Clapham, Janice Hardick,  
Joan Hassler



## ANNIVERSARIES

### DECEMBER

- 2- MIKE & BEVERLY GRUBB .....
- 15- MIKE & JUDY WIESE ..... 50
- 16- THOMAS & NANCY GURGIOLO . 23
- 16- TOM & LINDA SEAMON ..... 62
- 20- LEE & CONNIE REYNOLDS JR. .. 37
- 29- MIKE & MOLLY KING..... 33

### JANUARY

- 7- ANDE & TSUGU UCUBAGABRIEL. 50



## BIRTHDAYS

### DECEMBER

- 1- FRED PFANZ
- 2- KATHY GREER
- 2- LEE REYNOLDS JR.
- 3- SARAH ODUM
- 4- STEPHEN KILE
- 4- JAMES SCHLEA
- 6- ALAN SLACK
- 10- RICK CLARK
- 11- ERIC BUSH
- 11- JACQUELINE FRY
- 13- PAUL GRANT
- 15- DENNIS COOPER
- 16- JIM KEHL
- 16- PETE OTTESON
- 17- MERLIN BREEN
- 17- JANICE HARDICK
- 17- DAVID KILE
- 17- SUE MAHRT
- 17- VANESSA STEWART
- 18- JOHN KLEBERG
- 19- NATALIE ARTHUR

- 19- SARAH REARICK
- 20- SAMSON GURGIOLO
- 20- LAUREN PLACE
- 20- GABRIEL YOUNG
- 22- JOHN HICKS
- 23- KATHARINE TOLER
- 24- KEITH GREER
- 24- LYNN ST CLAIR
- 27- HANNAH LADERMAN
- 27- PHILIP YOUNG
- 30- THOMAS GURGIOLO
- 30- BILL KULJU
- 30- ROY TRUEMPER

### JANUARY

- 1- JAN AGLER
- 1- DAVID DOLL



## FIRST COMMUNION

**Margaret Hoch** completed preparation for First Communion and expressed a desire to join us as we gather around the Lord's table.

Her parents are Christopher and Linda Hoch. At the 11:00 a.m. service on November 26, 2023, we celebrated with Maggie and her family during this special time.



Margaret is pictured above with her parents Linda and Christopher, her brother Benny and grandparents Ron and Sherry Hoch.

"This is our  
time on the history line of God.  
This is it. What will we do with the one deep  
exhale of God on this earth? For we are but a vapor and  
we have to make it count. We're on. Direct us, Lord,  
and get us on our feet."  
- Beth Moore

Ed.Note: Last month's Baptism notice indicated that June Magnolia Callander was baptized on May 14th. That is in error. June Magnolia was baptized on October 29, 2023. Our apologies for this error.





Following is the third in a series of 11 articles on the Reformation by Pastor Tom Jacobson - Southeastern Ohio Mission District Dean

### Martin Luther's Younger Life

Martin Luther is a complex figure. That his life and its significance are open to interpretation is shown by the fact that books upon books have been written about his life. This does not mean that all interpretations of his life and work are equally valid. Rather, it demonstrates that he played an important role in history, even among non-Lutherans. Protestants of various shades, even though they might disagree with him about a number of issues, still consider themselves a part of his legacy. Today, even many Roman Catholics have a renewed appreciation for him.

Luther was born on November 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Germany. At the time, there was no such thing as a unified country of Germany like today. Back then, what we now call Germany consisted of many little "Germanies," independent states and cities ruled by princes and city councils.

Infant mortality rates were very high back then, and so his parents took him to the local church the very next day, November 11, for baptism. Because that day was set aside to commemorate St. Martin of Tours, their son was named Martin. His father and mother were Hans and Margareta Luder, which was later changed to "Luther." Hans was a copper miner. He wanted his son to have other opportunities, so he saved money for his education.

At the age of four, Martin was sent to boarding school in Mansfeld to learn Latin, the academic language of the day. Discipline was harsh, and if a student failed to memorize the Latin grammar for the day, he was often beaten. Luther did well, however, and he continued his education in Magdeburg and Eisenach. He then went to the University of Erfurt to obtain his law degree.

But the legend says that in 1505, Luther was returning home from Erfurt when he ran into a thunderstorm. The storm was so severe that he feared for his life. Having received harsh discipline from others as a child, he feared the wrath of God and doubted his salvation. He vowed to St. Anne, the patron saint of miners, that he would become a monk if allowed to live. Luther survived the storm, and keeping his word, he entered the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt.

In reality, it is possible that this "thunderstorm event" never actually happened. The story bears resemblance to the story of St. Paul in the book of Acts in the Bible (Acts 9:1-19). Jesus appeared to Paul on the road and changed his life. It is possible that Luther or someone close to him invented the story of Luther on the road from Erfurt as a way of dramatizing his life, making it parallel to a biblical story.

Regardless, Luther did enter the Augustinian monastery, much to his father's disappointment. Having saved money for Luther to become a lawyer with status, Luther chose to become a lowly monk. Like his other endeavors, Luther excelled at his religious vocation. He carefully observed the required fasting, praying, self-denial, and confession (penance). The way people were taught to think of salvation in that time was by the metaphor of a staircase. Sin brings you down on the staircase, and good works bring you up on the staircase to heaven. If your good works

outweighed your sins, you would achieve salvation. Luther once remarked, "If ever a monk could have reached heaven by monkery, then it was I." But Luther never felt that he had attained the level of righteousness that God demanded of him.

In 1507, Luther was ordained as a priest. He celebrated his first mass

with much fear and trembling. In 1510, he was selected by his father superior, Johann Staupitz, as an official representative to visit the holy city of Rome, the center of the medieval Western Church. There were many relics in Rome, which were said to possess special powers of holiness for pilgrims. But Luther was appalled by the lack of morality shown in Rome, even among other priests. He was told at one point that if he climbed the Holy Stairs (said to be the stairs to the palace of Pontius Pilate in the Bible), saying the Lord's Prayer with every step and kissing each step to the top, he would be granted pardon and a reduction of time in purgatory upon his death. But Luther never did find peace with God while in Rome. He returned to Germany in spiritual despair. We will continue next month with the beginning of Luther's work of reform of the Church.

***"If ever a monk could have reached heaven by monkery, then it was I."***

-Martin Luther





GRACE EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Westerville, Ohio



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>We envision Grace to be a welcoming, Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries.</p> <p>Worship materials and sermon available online at <a href="http://www.grace43081.org">www.grace43081.org</a></p>					1	2 9:00am Nativity Fair Set-up 9:30am AA Mtg 12-2pm Book Fair
					8:00pm AA Mtg	8:00pm AA Mtg
<p><b>3 1st Sunday of Advent</b> (Pr. Matt Cox) 8:30 &amp; 11am Worship Services 9:30 &amp; noon Cake Reception for Pr. Matt Cox 9:30am Christmas Prgm. Rehearsal 9:45am Adult Learning 2-4pm Christian Assembly of the Word (CAW) Nativity Fair Deadline for socks for Freedom a la cart RSVP for 12/10 Reception</p>	<p><b>4</b> 9:30am Stroller Fitness Group  1:00pm Katharine Circle</p>	<p><b>5</b> 9:30am Stroller Fitness Group  8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p><b>6 1st Wednesday of Advent</b> (Pr. David Wendel) 10:30am Women's Bible Study  6:00pm Supper 6:15pm Ringers 7:00pm Advent Service 7:30pm Singers 8:00pm Scioto Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>7</b> 9:30am Stroller Fitness Group  6:30pm Dartball @ Reynoldsburg</p>	<p><b>8</b>  5-7pm Soup for Shelter 7-9:15pm WHP Progressive Christmas Concerts 8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p><b>9</b> 9:00am Christmas Season Decorating 9:30am AA Mtg  Installation and Concert Set-up</p>
<p><b>10 2nd Sunday of Advent/ Installation</b> (Pr. David Wendel) 9:30am Christmas Prgm. Rehearsal 10am Worship Services 11:30am Installation Reception 2-4pm CAW Nativity Fair pick-up after service 3:30pm Joyful Noise Concert: Scioto Valley Brass Christmas Concert Angel Tree toys due Poinsettia order forms due</p>	<p><b>11</b> 9:30am Stroller Fitness Group  1:00pm Ruth Circle</p>	<p><b>12</b> 9:30am Stroller Fitness Group  8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p><b>13 2nd Wednesday of Advent</b> (Pr. David Wendel) 9:30am Grace Safety Team Cmmt. Mtg. 10:30am Women's Bible Study  6:00pm Supper 6:15pm Ringers 7:00pm Advent Service 7:30pm Singers</p>	<p><b>14</b> 9:30am Stroller Fitness Group  6:30pm Dartball @ Grace</p>	<p><b>15</b>  8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p><b>16</b> 9:00am Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal 9:30am AA Mtg  8:00pm AA Mtg</p>
<p><b>17 3rd Sunday of Advent/Youth Christmas Program</b> (Pr. David Wendel) 8:30am Worship Services 9:30am Youth Christmas Program Rehearsal 9:45am Adult Learning 11am Worship Services and Youth Christmas Program 2-4pm CAW 6:00pm Council Mtg @ Young's Home</p>	<p><b>18</b> 9:30am Stroller Fitness Group</p>	<p><b>19</b> 9:30am Stroller Fitness Group  8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p><b>20 3rd Wednesday of Advent</b> (Pr. David Wendel) 10:30 am Women's Bible Study  6:00pm Supper 6:15pm Ringers 7:00pm Advent Service 7:30pm Singers</p>	<p><b>21</b> 9:30am Stroller Fitness Group  6:30pm Dartball vs. Grace of God</p>	<p><b>22</b>  8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p><b>23</b> 9:00am A&amp;E final decorating 9:30am AA Mtg  8:00pm AA Mtg</p>
<p><b>24 4th Sunday of Advent/ Nativity of Our Lord</b> (Pr. David Wendel) 10am Worship Services 2-4pm CAW 5:00pm &amp; 8:00pm Christmas Eve Services</p>	<p><b>25 Nativity of Our Lord</b> (Pr. David Wendel) 10am Worship Services —Office Closed—</p>	<p><b>26</b> —Office Closed—</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> 9:30am AA Mtg</p>
<p><b>31 1st Sunday after Christmas</b> (Pr. David Wendel) 8:30 &amp; 11am Worship Services 9:45am Adult Learning 2-4pm CAW</p>		<p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>		<p>7:00pm Worship and Music Mtg</p>	<p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>8:00pm AA Mtg</p>

*Grace*

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We are a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

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