



This Week at Grace: Dec. 22-29, 2024

Dec. 22

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Pr. David Wendel

8:15 am Worship Service

9:45 am Adult Learning

11:00 am Worship Service

MON

11:00am Art and Environment Poinsettia set-up

TUES

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00pm Worship Service: Children's/Family-friendly service with candle-light, carols and age appropriate children's Christmas story for the little ones!

8:00pm Worship Service: The birth of our Lord will be celebrated in a beautiful service with candle-light, carols and Holy Communion!

WED.

CHRISTMAS DAY

—Office Closed—

10:00am Worship Service: We will gather on Christmas Day to celebrate the Word made flesh to dwell among us, with carols and Holy Communion!

Poinsettias can be picked up after the 10am service

THURS

—Office Closed—

FRI.

8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SAT

9:30 am AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Dec. 29

1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Molly King, Commissioned Lay Minister

8:15 am Worship Service

9:45 am Adult Learning

11:00 am Worship Service

Great "O Antiphons of Advent": The closing hymn each Sunday in Advent this year will use



the Great "O Antiphons," on which is based the Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." The Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since sometime between the sixth and the eighth century. They use ancient biblical imagery in the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment of

prophecy, with each antiphon beginning with a title for the Messiah. They are prayers of longing as we wait and watch for Christmas. There were originally 7, but some have added antiphons making 9 or 12. They are: O Come Emmanuel; O Come thou Wisdom; O Come thou Lord of might; O come thou Branch of Jesse; O come thou Key of David; O Come thou Dayspring; O Come, Desire of Nations.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 1, 2025	Office Closed
Jan. 16	7pm: Faith and Family night with the Columbus Blue Jackets (sign-up by Jan. 5)
Jan. 25	2-4pm: Game Day: Bring your favorite friend, snack and game (all are welcome)



Festive Photo Opportunities around Grace: Many families take pictures with family and friends for their Holiday cards or to include in cards. This year, Art and Environment invites you to pose in front of our festive trees before or after services or at another time when the church is open to share with loved ones as we prepare for Christmas. Our church will be decorated by December 8 (minus the poinsettias).

Flowers for 2024 and NOW 2025: Flowers have been a tradition in worship spaces for generations. They bring beauty and nature into our service and remind us of God's wonderful creation. They can honor a loved one, celebrate a special event or give glory to God. There are still dates available to sign up for flowers for the sanctuary. Since the suggested donation of \$30 does not cover the entire cost, the flowers are to be enjoyed by all, first in the service and the week following in the gathering space. You may sign up at the welcome center, on-line through our giving page or call the office.



Considering Purchasing a Columbarium Niche? In fairness to all members who may be interested in/considering purchase of a Grace Columbarium niche, we would like to announce that cost of a niche will increase in price in 2025. **Due to current economic realities, we will be increasing cost of a niche by \$100 on January 1, 2025.** If you or someone you love is considering purchase of a niche, it may be advantageous to do so before the first of the year. As has been the case, payment plans are available, with the current price locked in, if first payment is received before the end of 2024!



*You are
invited!*

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”

John 1:14

The Nativity of our Lord, 2024

Christmas Services at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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, *The First Christmas Night*, by Keith Christopher, illustrated by Christine Kornacki. 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, *“Look Upon the Baby Jesus!”* 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! Pastor Wendel will preach the sermon titled, *“Christmas People in a Christmas Church!”* We will worship using LBW Setting 1, with carols and Holy Communion!

***Please invite friends, family to join us as we gather to celebrate Emmanuel,
God-with-us!***

“Come and worship; come and worship! Worship Christ our Newborn King!”

Amazing God-- Amazing Grace-- Amazing Worship!

CHRISTIAN GROWTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Youth and Family Events: Mark Your Calendar

- Jan. 16– Faith and Family night with the Columbus Blue Jackets
- Jan. 25-Game Day, 2:00 to 4:00. Bring your favorite friend, favorite snack and favorite game.
- Feb 8- Sweetheart Supper, 5:00pm to 7:00pm. The youth are serving spaghetti dinner for date night. More information to come.
- March 15- Bowling at Delaware Lanes, 2:00 to 4:00.
- April 26- Ice Skating at the Chiller.
- May 10- Pins Mechanical at Easton, 2:00 to 4:00
- June 21- Westerville Golf Center for Miniature Golf
- July 20-24- Vacation Bible School
- August 9- Youth and Family Picnic 4:00 to 6:00.



Columbus Blue Jackets, Faith & Family night will be Thursday, January 16 vs. the San Jose Sharks. The game time is 7:00 pm. This year we will be in the lower bowl seats. The tickets for those seats are \$90 per ticket. Youth and Family is paying for part of the ticket. Your cost will be \$40 per ticket. The deadline to purchase tickets is January 5th. If you are interested email Molly at m.king@grace43081.org or sign up at the Welcome Center.

Adult Education - The Acts of the Apostles:



In a world that is unsure of where to find truth or purpose, the book of Acts stands apart. It reveals God's plan for global redemption, his purpose for our lives, and the power he has given us to accomplish his mission. Please Join the adult class for an eight week series beginning on January 5, 2025 as Pastor Louie Giglio walks us through the story of the early church. Acts may have been written two thousand years ago, but God is calling us to be a part of that story today. The Adult Education class meets Sundays at 9:45 in the fellowship hall.



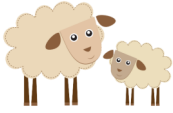
The Women's Bible Study is studying 1 Corinthians, The Challenges of Life Together. The group meets each Wednesday at 10:30am. Contact Molly King

Grace Sisterhood met for devotion around the upcoming weeks reading of Philippians 1: 2-11 and conversation at BruBurger. Our next gathering will be Monday, January 6 at 7pm at location TBA. Please let Melissa Hodek know if you would like to be on the email reminder list and if you are able to join us so we can plan for a table for January 6.

We look forward to starting a 6 week Bible Study in January titled "Stronger than Stress: Developing 10 Spiritual Practices to Win the Battle of Overwhelm" by Barb Roose who was a presenter during the recent Aspire Women's Event at Grace. The book is available for purchase on amazon.



Busy Bags: We have been b-u-s-y putting together busy bags! Each week there will be different things to do in the bags for the children to sit with mom and dad during worship. When you come into the sanctuary there will be a bag tree for the children to grab a bag for worship! Some of the items that will be in the bags are sewing cards, finger puppets, board books, quiet books, Magnadoodles and more!



Little Lambs

Little Lamb Leaders: We are in need of a couple more volunteers who will prepare and lead the Little Lambs time at either or both services. Materials will be provided weekly, with instruction and orientation for those willing to lead. We would love a few more leaders to rotate. For the safety and health of all, we request no toys or food be brought to the Little Lambs time. If you have any questions or interested in being a leader contact Molly King, m.king@grace43081.org.



Grace Chancel Choir meets at 7:00pm, Wednesdays and will resume January 8! All are welcome! Contact Robin Buser.

Grace Ringers Bell Choir will resume in the new year. Watch for an email from Maria. The group meets at 6:15pm Wednesdays! Contact Maria Laderman.

Grace Youth Choir meets Sundays at 10:30am and will resume rehearsals in the new year! Watch for an email from Maria. Contact Maria Laderman.

OUTREACH ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST FRUITS SUNDAYS *Let all that you do be done in love". (1 Corinthians 16:14)*

Holiday Food Drive list: Canned Tomatoes; Canned Fruit Coffee; Canned Beans; Pancake mix/syrup; Condiments; Salad Dressings; Laundry Detergent; Shampoo; Toothbrush/Paste; Rice; Canned meat; Pasta noodles; Peanut Butter; Helper Meals; Flour; Sugar; Soap – Bar, Dish; Paper Towels/TP; Cereal. *We cannot accept food that has reached its expiration date. Any fresh produce, baked goods and dairy products take directly to WARM. 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.*

MONTHLY FOOD/HYGIENE=264 lbs.; YEAR TO DATE FOOD/HYGIENE=3,789.4 lbs.

MONTHLY MONETARY= \$1,202.00; YEAR TO DATE MONETARY= \$13,632.00

Thanksgiving Blessing Donations:

MONETARY: \$1,365 + MATCHING MISSION RESERVE UP TO \$1,000= \$2,365

FOOD: 137 LBS.

Do you shop at Kroger? If you do and haven't already, please **enroll** in the **Kroger Community Rewards Program** and choose **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (org. #: PV731)** as your non-profit organization. It's a Win-Win for everyone! Of your Kroger purchases 0.5% will be credited to Grace! It adds up quick and is easy to do. If you are already signed up, you no longer need to re-enroll. Enroll at: www.krogercommunityrewards.com.



Grace Intercessory Prayer Team From Donna Dettmann

What did Martin Luther have to say about prayer:



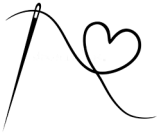
- Prayer is a very precious medicine, one that helps and never fails.
- Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church.
- Prayer is a good Christian weapon.
- Prayer is the sweat of the soul.

The Intercessory Prayer Team is here for you to ask for your need (the Bible says – “Ask”) and then you have added 18 additional IPT members to pray for your need. All prayer requests are prayed for daily, for two weeks.

All you need to do is let us know what your prayer need is. At Grace Church, there are 2 ways to ask for prayers from your IPT.

1. You will find a locked prayer chest at the back of the church on a table with prayer request forms and pens. Just fill out a form and put your request in the locked prayer chest. (Yes, we will take any piece of paper you can find to write your request on.)
2. Prayer requests can also be sent through the Grace website: (grace43081.org/prayerrequest). The “prayer request” link is found on the top righthand side of the first page of the website.

Confidentiality of your prayer request is very important to the IPT. You do not need to sign the request if you want to be anonymous.



Attention Grace Stitchers and any one interested in joining the Stitchers! A meeting is planned for Tuesday January 21, 2025 at 1pm in the Loaves & Fishes. We plan to review what we accomplished in 2024 and look to possible projects for 2025 - please bring your ideas! Questions? Contact Vanessa Stewart.

HOSPITALITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace Supper Club enjoyed its dinner outing at P.F. Chang's last month. It was cold and snowy, but we still had a nice turnout and a delicious meal. Supper Club is taking a hiatus for the month of December, but look for information in the January newsletter or Sunday bulletins for next month'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.



Westerville Grace Dartball's next match is 1/16 vs. Grace Pickerington. All are welcome to come join us and give it a try that evening, and no prior experience is needed! We look forward to seeing returning players as well as anyone new who would like to join our club. Any questions can be directed to Chris Banks or Robert Bassett. Upcoming matches: 12/26 NO GAMES; 1/2 NO GAMES; 1/9 Bye; 1/16 vs. Grace Pickerington.



The Euchre group will meet at 1 o'clock, Thursday, January 16 in their usual spot: the Loaves and Fishes cafe. Your contact for January is Lois Rumph. Sign up in the Welcome center so they know how many tables to set up.



Let Your Face Shine

Find the 36 **bold** words from Psalm 80:1-7 (ESV)

J D I P N M E R L H G T F M Z
X A B R I I N Y D E C I E E N
P E R A M G T R R E A A V E D
Z R I Y A H H M J G S R I E S
C B T E J T R B I U N G S A N
F O S R N V O E R B H A V I L
A L N S E D N E S B U E Q A R
C U G T B R E P O T D R U A H
E V I G E I D R B F O G E E N
F L O C K N S T S O H R S H Q
S A V E T K T H D T Y S E P C
E P H R A I M I I A A I D E L
S E I M E N E V O N E N O S L
D R E H P E H S A N E L U O U
D R O L G O D M T E A R S J F

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who **lead Joseph** like a **flock**. You who are **enthroned** upon the **cherubim**, shine forth. Before **Ephraim** and **Benjamin** and **Manasseh**, **stir up** your **might** and come to **save us!** **Restore** us, O God; let your **face shine**, that we may be saved! O **LORD God** of **hosts**, how long will you be **angry** with your people's **prayers**? You have **fed** them with the **bread** of **tears** and **given** them tears to **drink** in **full measure**. You make us an **object of contention** for our **neighbors**, and our **enemies laugh** among themselves. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be **saved!**

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