



This Week at Grace: Dec. 8-15, 2024

Dec. 8

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Pr. David Wendel

8:15 am Worship Service
9:45 am Christmas Program Rehearsal
9:45 am Adult Learning
11:00 am Worship Service
6:30pm Council Meeting @ Wendel Home
WARM Holiday Food Drive Bags Due
Angel Tree Toys Due
Poinsettia Order Forms Due

MON

1:00pm Ruth Circle
6:30pm Band of Brothers

TUES

6:30 pm Mission Group Meeting (Loaves and Fishes Café)
8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

WED.

1ST WEDNESDAY OF ADVENT

10:30am Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
6:00pm Grace Ringers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7:00pm Mid-Week Advent Service (Sanctuary)
7:30 pm Grace Singers Rehearsal (Rose Garden 2 & 3)
7:30 pm Scioto Valley B&PC (Sanctuary)

THURS

6:30pm Dartball vs. Reynoldsburg
WARM Adopted Family Gifts Due

FRI.

5-7pm WHP Soup for Shelter @ Westerville Senior Center
7-9:15pm Westerville Habitat Partnership Progressive Christmas Concert
@ Church of the Master, Church of the Messiah, First
Presbyterian Church

8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SAT

9:30 am AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Dec. 15

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT/YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Pr. David Wendel

8:15 am Worship Service
9:45 am Christmas Program Rehearsal
9:45 am Adult Learning
11:00 am Worship Service featuring "The Tale Of The Little Drummer Boy"
4:00 pm "A Joyful Noise! Community Concerts" presents Scioto Valley
Brass and Percussion Company Christmas Concert *In the
Christmas Mood*

Nativity Fair nativities can be picked up after the Christmas Concert

Upcoming Events

Dec. 18	7:00pm: Advent Services: Holden Evening Prayer
Dec. 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00am Men of Grace
Dec. 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A&E Event Set-up
Dec. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm and 8pm Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Christmas Day Service Office Closed (Dec. 25 & 26)

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.



Festive Photo Opportunities around Grace beginning TODAY: 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).

Nativity Fair, Dec. 8-15: Nativities come in all shapes and sizes, are made from various materials, but all depict Jesus Christ's birth. Come and see the beautiful displays shared for this short time as we prepare for the birth of the Christ child. Nativities can be viewed on Sundays and during church office hours in the Gathering Space.



Nativity Fair contributions can be picked up after the Scioto Brass Concert on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 15th . That will enable other community members to have an opportunity to view the display.

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!

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

- Youth Christmas Program, December 15, 11am
- 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.



On Sunday, December 15 at the 11am service, you are invited to the Youth Christmas Program. "The Tale of the Little Drummer Boy" is a delightful original adaptation of the song, in a musical play which follows the orphaned drummer boy, Marcus, serving in the Roman Legion, as he meets Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem. Finally he is able to visit the manger of the baby Jesus, offering the only gift he had to offer, his simple gift of music and love! Be sure to invite friends, family and neighbors to enjoy this engaging, entertaining Christmas pageant, which is particularly

meaningful for those who have loved the song since they were children!



Ruth Circle will meet on Monday, December 9th at 1:00 p.m. for their Christmas luncheon at Giammarco's Italian Restaurant located at 6030 Chandler's Ct., Westerville OH 43082. See you there! If you have questions, contact Dorothea Fuhrman.

Calling all singers! For Christmas!



Our adult choir is extending a special invitation to all who love to sing, but may not be able to make every Wednesday evening rehearsals throughout the year! Please consider joining the choir to sing on Christmas Eve! Especially needed are male voices! If you are a man who sings in the summer men's chorus at Grace, come rehearse with the choir for a few weeks and then sing on Christmas Eve, at the 8 PM service. On Christmas Eve, the choir will sit with the congregation, and come forward for the musical offering, so singers will be able to sit with family

and friends.

MEN OF GRACE All men of Grace are invited to the next study on December 21 8 AM for breakfast, study and fellowship! This is the second session of the study titled "Bible Backroads: The Gospel of Luke," a six session introduction to the Gospel of Luke, which will be our Gospel for the coming church year, beginning Advent I. Dave Stotts is familiar to many for his "Drive Through the Bible" series, providing background, context, history and important themes in each book of the Bible!



Adult Education - Living for Christ in a Culture that Doesn't



What is God's will for our lives, and why is it important to know? In this eight-session series, Pastor Ben Stuart shows us that Jesus calls us to live our faith openly, letting the

world see our allegiance to him. When we are being faithful, pressing against culture, others can't help but notice. The Adult Education class is studying the book of 1 Thessalonians and 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.

Youth Christmas Program Rehearsal is taking place during the Sunday School hour in the sanctuary. Contact Molly King, m.king@grace43081.org or 614-882-3026.



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.



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 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.



Little Lambs

Grace Chancel Choir meets at 7:30pm, Wednesdays during Advent! All are welcome!



Grace Ringers Bell Choir meets at 6:00pm during Advent, Wednesdays! Contact Maria Laderman.

Grace Youth Choir meets Sundays at 10:30am and will resume rehearsals after the Dec. 15 Youth Christmas Program! Contact Maria Laderman.



Advent Holden Evening Prayer, December 11, 18

As we approach the season of Advent, we will again gather midweek for Holden Evening Prayer, 7-7:30 PM Wednesdays December 11, 18. Because of choir and Scioto Valley Brass and Percussion Company rehearsals in our sanctuary, please note we will have Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM this December! Handbells will rehearse from 6- 6:45 PM and Adult Choir will rehears after Evening Prayer. We will be offering soup suppers only during Lent, realizing most have busier schedules during Advent. Please join together for these quieter, more meditative services as we make additional time for prayer and inner preparation for our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas!

OUTREACH ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Angel Tree gifts for the Salvation Army are due **TODAY** for this Columbus-based fund raiser.

WARM Christmas Family Adoption: Grace is adopting a family assigned to us by WARM this year! Our Adopted Family for Christmas This Year Is Family #2 at WARM! The family includes: 2 adults, a 5-year-old girl, and a 7-year-old boy.



Their gift requests are on the Christmas tree ornaments. Please take an ornament or two and buy the gift and bring it back to Grace

and place it in the big red box. Or, if the gift is a gift card, please place it in the box with the lid next to the big red box!

Please do not wrap the gifts! The deadline to bring your gift(s) in is Thursday, 12/12/24 so that we can deliver them to WARM on Friday morning. Questions: Joanne Figue

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.*

2024 WARM Holiday Food Drive Information..... Place non-perishable donations in a bag bring the bag back to Grace TODAY and place it in or around the WARM carts. (Most needed items are listed in the Holiday Food Drive list above.)



Kroger Rewards Quarterly Report for Grace We have 44 Grace Households who hold a Kroger Community Rewards card that is linked to Grace Lutheran Church. As they shop with Kroger, a portion of the sale comes to Grace. From August 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024 our 44 households saw a donation of \$180.76 If you haven't already done so, link your rewards card to Grace. It's easy to do and easy to use.



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.

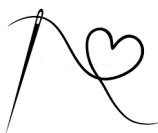
Confidentiality of your prayer request is very important to the IPT. You do not need to sign the request if you want to be anonymous.

Annual Soup for Shelter and Progressive Christmas Concert: Friday, Dec. 13, 7-9:15pm. Over 500 tickets have been sold. Tickets are still available.



Grace Singers Chancel Choir, led by Robin Buser, will perform at the three concerts. Tickets are available online at <https://www.westervillehabitatpartnership.org/events> and will be sold after each Sunday morning service TODAY. If you prefer printed tickets, they will

be brought to church now through December 8. If you are unable to pick up your printed tickets on December 8, please advise Joanne Figge or Lois Rumph, and they will get the tickets to you!



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

Westerville Grace Dartball's next match is 12/12 vs. Reynoldsburg. 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: 12/19 vs. Grace of God; 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, Monday, December 16 in their usual spot: the Loaves and Fishes cafe. Your contact for December is Lois Rumph, 614-794-1466. Sign up in the Welcome center so they know how many tables to set up.

Advent Holden Evening Prayer, Wednesdays Dec. 4, 11, and 18
“The Mystery of God with Us!”

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory!” 1 Timothy 3:16

This year, we will offer midweek Advent Holden Evening Prayer three Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, and 18, focusing on the theme, “The Mystery of God with Us!” Our lives are often so busy and our minds so distracted that we see only what is before us, in the moment. Work, schedules, commitments, day-to-day difficulties all draw our attention away from the wonderful mystery which is God with us, in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh to dwell among us! It seems worthwhile to take 30 minutes midweek in Advent to pause and ponder this great mystery of our religion, that God became human in and through His only begotten Son, Jesus, to save us from sin, death and the devil!

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!



GRACE EVANGELICAL
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