

The Board of Congregational Life is beginning to assemble the new photo directory. If you have a candid photo of a church event, we would love to include it in the directory!

These could be photos of baptisms, confirmations, Christmas pageants, board activities (such as hanging the greens for Christmas, church clean up days, peacemakers quilts, witness and mission projects), or any fellowship events. I will need a digital copy so please email or text your photo to Mary Schlievert at 419-350-1134 or jamasami@me.com

Please include the names of the people in your photo, the name of the event, and an approximate date (month and year would be great!). Our last directory was published in 2016, so any photos from then to the present would be welcome. Please contact Mary Schlievert if you have any questions."

Reminder Set your clocks back! Sunday, November 5, 2022, Daylight Savings Time Ends



"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
(Matthew 11:28-30)

For many of us October brings a sense of commitments. More activities, more sports, more schoolwork or more meetings. Throughout scripture Jesus says many wonderful things and the verses above are just well, lovely. Jesus is telling us in this moment that if we ground the work we do, whether for the church, or our families, and even our community, in God we will find not a life that is easy but a life of joyful work.

We are not called to live easy lives; we are called to be faithful. Faithful living includes not only going to church and being involved but also recognizing that all we have comes from God. Faithful living includes giving thanks to God at the end of a busy day for the places where you saw his grace and presence. One way I have reflected on God's faithfulness in seasons of busyness is to make a list of daily gratitude. Jesus reminds us in this passage from Matthew that there will be work to do but we don't need to be overwhelmed because Jesus is with us every step of the way.

If you have any pastoral care needs, please let me know. You can reach me by email at pastorjacitiell@aol.com or by phone at 419-215-8370.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jaci Tiell



“Congratulations...to the following with a birthday in October:

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Michael Schlievert | 1 |
| Ayla Henn | 7 |
| Gary Anderson | 8 |
| Cheryl Hoot | 14 |
| Joan Eckermann | 22 |
| Sun Reau | 30 |

Happy Birthday

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Congratulations...to those couples celebrating anniversaries during October:

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Ron & Genise Dangler | 10 |
| Gary & Nancy Daniel | 14 |
| Pat & Bob Sondergeld | 30 |

Happy Anniversary

Note: If your anniversary or birthday is in October and is not listed above, please notify the church office .

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October Gospel Readings...

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| October 2 | Luke 17: 5-10 |
| October 9 | Luke 17: 11-19 |
| October 16 | Luke 18: 1-8 |
| October 23 | Luke 18: 9-14 |
| October 30 | John 8: 31-36 |

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WEEKLY OFFERING 2022

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|---------|-------------|
| Week 1 | \$2,525.00 | Week 2 | \$1,927.00 |
| Week 3 | \$2,367.00 | Week 4 | \$986.00 |
| Week 5 | \$2,982.00 | Week 6 | \$11,664.00 |
| Week 7 | \$910.00 | Week 8 | \$2,454.00 |
| Week 9 | \$2,018.00 | Week 10 | \$9,028.00 |
| Week 11 | \$1,195.50 | Week 12 | \$2,840.00 |
| Week 13 | \$1,425.00 | Week 14 | \$2,450.00 |
| Week 15 | \$3,806.00 | Week 16 | \$2,934.00 |
| Week 17 | \$1,530.00 | Week 18 | \$2,867.00 |
| Week 19 | \$1,751.00 | Week 20 | \$4,994.00 |
| Week 21 | \$1,587.00 | Week 22 | \$1,162.00 |
| Week 23 | \$3,315.00 | Week 24 | \$862.00 |
| Week 25 | \$6,680.00 | Week 26 | \$1,464.00 |
| Week 27 | \$3,152.00 | Week 28 | \$1,155.00 |
| Week 29 | \$4,882.00 | Week 30 | \$1,112.00 |
| Week 31 | \$1,072.00 | Week 32 | \$3,125.00 |
| Week 33 | \$1,317.00 | Week 34 | \$4,912.00 |
| Week 35 | \$865.00 | Week 36 | \$2,962.00 |
| Week 37 | \$6,227.00 | Week 38 | \$1,847.00 |
| Week 39 | \$1,577.00 | | |
| Total | \$111,928.50 | | |



Needed from Offering for 2022 \$145,000 **Budget Gap** (\$33,071.50)
Weekly Goal \$2,789 **Avg. Week** \$2,870

Thank You's

...from Two Villages.. Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$500.00 to Two Villages. This will be used in future programming to help us raise a healthy culture, healthy communities and healthy kids. We really appreciate your generosity and support. Two Villages Committee Members

...HopeWood Outdoors (formerly LOMO)... Thank you for your gift of \$400.00 . Your support and generosity are gifts to all who spend time a one of our camps.

...from Habitat for Humanity of Ottawa County.. On behalf of Habitat I want to thank the church for your generous donation of providing lunch for our volunteers at 562 Ames in Elmore. Thanks to Mary Schlievert for delivering the meal.

October Worship Workers...

Deacons

| | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 10/2/2022 | Gene Michel/Alan Wolfe |
| 10/9/2022 | Mary & Mike Schlievert |
| 10/16/2022 | Gary Anderson/Randy Jacobs |
| 10/23/2022 | Steve Simkus/Steve Blausey |
| 10/30/2022 | Bruce King/Pr Wietelmann |

Lectors

| |
|-----------------|
| Nancy Bennett |
| Mary Schlievert |
| John Marik |
| Judy Zimmerman |
| Jean Wietelmann |

The Values We Share...

Worship weekly.
Invite others to join us.
Embrace one another.
Keep on learning.
Give regularly and generously.
Be good stewards and willing servants.

.Get in Touch with Grace...

www.graceelconline.org is our web site. Check out the site. You'll find regularly updated info on upcoming events. Joyce is working Tuesday thru Thursday in the church office. The hours are usually 9:00 - 3:00. I am checking messages, email, and mail everyday. Write us with concerns or announcements at graceelc@gmail.com. Got a prayer request? Email it to the address above or call the office and leave a message. 419-862-3630.

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Grace is collecting for Missions...

Greeting cards-Luther Home of Mercy

Christian literature for Christian Resources International

Wrapped bar soap-LWR

Miller's receipts-Youth program



Grace's October Food Pantry Item:

Peanut Butter—18 oz. jar

The Food Pantry will be open October 14th from 9:00 to Noon

GRACE COUNCIL REPORT

But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. (From Luke 16:19-31, the parable of Lazarus and the rich man).

The month of October brings everyone the bright colors of Autumn and cooler temperatures. For Grace's Congregation Council, October comes as a time to prepare for the next church year as well as to celebrate the Reformation. We have an Annual Congregation Meeting on the 6th of November to prepare for; we also have Reformation Sunday to celebrate and can look forward to Advent worship events that joyfully anticipate the birth of our Savior.

2023 Budget Preparation. When Grace's Council meets in October (13 Oct), one of our tasks will be to approve a 2023 budget for presentation to the Annual Meeting. Prior to 2019, Grace had deficits in four of the previous five years. The Council had to borrow money from the Maintenance Fund just to pay operating expenses. It was becoming painfully obvious that Grace could not afford a full-time Pastor. Since 2019, when we decided to call a part-time Pastor, Grace's finances have stabilized. 2022 is not over yet, but our financial reports have consistently indicated that Grace will finish this year with a surplus. The budget the congregation approved last November projected offerings of \$145,000 for the year. Through nine months, offerings are ahead of this goal. Grace's members are responding to this financial challenge, and we are thankful for their generosity.

At the same time, we have kept expenses below budget targets. Our August financial report showed a current surplus of just under \$15,000. The Council has decided that if this surplus continues through the end of the year, the end-of-year surplus will be divided between the Capital Reserve Fund that was created earlier in the year as a savings account to pay for future capital repairs, and special benevolences that will be selected at the end of the year. .

Jesus' parable about Lazarus and the rich man, which was the Gospel reading on the 25th of September and the focus of Pastor Jaci's sermon, was a timely reminder of how important it is for our congregation, which now is being blessed with financial surpluses, to share its bounty with those who are truly poor. Members who have recommendations for special benevolences should pass them on to a Council member

We expect that next year's budget will be similar to this year's budget. Inflation means a cost-of-living adjustment must be made in staff salaries. No new projected expenses have been proposed so Grace's members can expect to see a 2023 budget at this year's Annual Meeting that looks very much like the 2022 budget. It will project a fifth consecutive year with a modest end-of-year surplus.

Reformation Sunday. For Lutheran Churches around the world, Reformation Day on the 31st of October and Reformation Sunday, which falls on the 30th of October this year, are days of celebration. The 31st of October, on the eve of All Saints Day, is the day when a then unknown theology professor at the University of Wittenberg in Germany named Martin Luther sent a letter to his Archbishop condemning the Roman Church's sale of indulgences that falsely promised the forgiveness of sins. Luther's protest against this corrupt practice and his publication of *The 95 Theses* led to the re-establishment of our belief that the forgiveness of sin and salvation are gifts from God. Salvation is by faith alone. Thanks be to God!

Gary Anderson

Council President

STUDENT LED MOVEMENT SLOVENIA

New Co-Laborers!

As we head into a new school year, we are excited to continue to strive to see the Kingdom of God come to the lives of students across the country of Slovenia. As you know, our goal is to see a community of people reading the Bible in each of the 212 municipalities of Slovenia, meaning that there would be a group within a 15 minute drive of anyone in the country. As we continue toward that goal this year, we are incredibly excited to have some new teammates joining us this year.



A Slovene married couple named Rok and Polona will be joining our team. We have known them for many years, as they have been volunteers with different ministries. They have long desired to work in full-time ministry, and they said that joining our team is an answer to many years of prayer. They are going to bring so much to our team, and for us, they are an answer to prayers as well. Our ultimate goal is to completely hand-over the ministry to Slovene nationals, and Rok, Polona, and Kaja (who will be interning with us a second year this year) are huge steps toward that goal, and incredibly important to the long-term longevity and health of the ministry here. I am certain that God will bless them all with incredibly fruitful ministries this year.

This brings our team to an exciting point this year, as we will have 3 Slovenes, 5 Americans, and 1 Moldovan (Zina) on our team, meaning the American-to-European balance will be nearing that hopeful eventual turning point, where the ministry can be fully turned over to Slovenes. Please pray for Rok and Polona, that God would be preparing them for what may be a challenging yet rewarding transition into full-time ministry. Pray that they would be welcomed and incorporated well into our team, that God would bless them with wisdom and insight that they could share with us to accurate our ministry toward our goals. Pray for us as we are planning and prepping for the coming school year, that we would have unity, vision, and joy. And pray for each of us, that we would serve God foremost from our own deep and fruitful relationships with Him.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Lord would continue drawing people to Himself, and that He would help us to connect with them, so that we can help them grow in their faith and make disciples.
- Pray for the groups that were established last year, that they would continue to grow, and to bless each other and their communities. Pray they the Slovenes in the groups would continue to read and apply Gods word to their lives, and share it with those around them.
- Pray for students as the prep for school, that God would be moving in their lives.

With Love, Zina , Jay & Ari Herman



OPERATION OREO...

A hand written card was sent to each of the soldiers last week. This is just a little note to remind them they are thought of and prayed for daily from their friends at Grace.



Please keep all of the military in your prayers, but especially: **PVT2 Stephen Simkus, and Julian Sanchez.**

If you have a name to add to our list or if you have any questions about Operation Oreo, please contact Jennifer Marquardt

Backpacks For Humans...

This 501(c)(3) organization serves people in crisis in the Toledo area. The items needed at this time are: blanket throws, sheets, and towels. Anyone who has extras of these items is urged to bring them to the church and place them in the collection box in the Narthex.

Portals of Prayer..

The October thru December Portals of Prayer have arrived for your daily devotions. The copies are



on the table in the Narthex.

The Ottawa County Family Advocacy Organization has asked for county wide help. They are in-need of financial donations to support their programs.

They are also looking for volunteers to mentor Senior Citizens who have been reported for abuse and neglect. For information call 419-301-0225

BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Chicken BBQ. The net proceeds were \$386.00. The check was sent to Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center along with matching funds from Thrivent. These funds will benefit individuals right here in Ottawa County. **Also received the following:** **Thank you** for the delicious BBQ chicken dinner and for serving our community. We have come to your BBQ's for many years and always enjoy them. A shout out to Jean & Merlyn Weng. We were neighbors years ago. In friendship and love, Bonnie Moyer

Local Up Coming Opportunities...

.....**October 15 from 4:00-6:00** St. John's United Church of Christ , Elmore invites you to the Annual Chicken "n" Biscuit Dinner. The meal consists of Chicken, biscuit & gravy, tossed salad, homemade cranberry sauce, applesauce, and pie. Meals will only be served drive thru. Donation \$10.00-adults \$5.00 children 10 and under.

...**November 26 at 9:30am** all Ladies are invited to the 25th annual ADVENT Service and Brunch at St. John Lutheran Church, Rocky Ridge. Tickets are \$10.00 with reservation before November 20, 2022 Seating is limited . RSVP to Ann Schimming 419-704-4368. Check out the flyer on the Fellowship Hallway Bulletin Board.

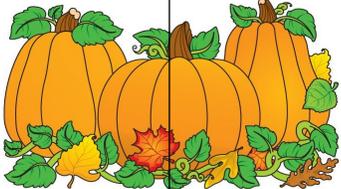
Learn to Laugh...

Did you know that people who laugh live longer? It's true. Proverbs 14:30 says, "A relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life."

Humor is an amazing thing. It's a tension dissolver. It's an antidote to anxiety. It's a tranquillizer, but without any troublesome side-effects. And it's free! You don't even need a prescription.

Proverbs 17: 22 says, "A merry heart does good, like medicine."

October 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| |  | | | | | 1 |
| 2 9:30am– Property Board Meeting 10:30am - Worship | 3 | 4 10:00am - Elmore Senior Citizens 7:00pm - Choir | 5 | 6 10:00am - Elmore Senior Citizens | 7 | 8 Quilts & Kits to New Rochester |
| 9 10:30am - Worship | 10 | 11 10:00am - Elmore Senior Citizens 6:00p– Congregational Life Meeting 7:00pm - Choir | 12 4:00pm– Witness & Mission | 13 10:00am - Elmore Senior Citizens 7p - Council | 14 9:00– Noon - Food Pantry | 15 |
| 16 10:30am - Worship Clyde Bame - preaching Cabbage Dinner @ Bethlehem | 17 | 18 Newsletter Deadline 10:00am - Elmore Senior Citizens 7:00pm - Choir | 19 | 20 10:00am - Elmore Senior Citizens | 21 | 22 |
| 23 10:30am - Worship _____ 30 Reformation Sunday 10:30am - Worship Potluck after worship | 24 _____ 31  | 25 10:00am - Elmore Senior Citizens 7:00pm - Choir | 26 | 27 10:00am– Elmore Senior Center | 28  | 29 |