



# THE PARISH REPORTER

*Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*Praising, Growing, Serving in Jesus' name.*

*Pastor Jaci Tiell*

*August 2025*

*From the  
Pastor*



## ***Finding our balance in the busy.***

For students, teachers, and parents alike, the new school year often brings a flurry of activities. Homework, sports, and extracurricular schedules can quickly fill our calendars! While it's essential to

encourage our children to explore new interests and develop their skills, it's equally important for families to find a balance in the busy and prioritize time together.

For our family, once the kids get settled with school the structure of the school year is definitely a good thing! But getting settled takes a bit as everyone becomes accustomed to new teachers and classrooms. Once everyone is settled then we can work on our balance. Balancing school, evening meetings and activities can be tricky. But finding that balance is important for everyone. Finding a balance of your daily routine is helpful even if you are no longer in school. I realize oh I sooooo realize it can be a struggle to find balance and connect with one another. But making an intentional effort toward balance will help! Our house is one often filled with chaos.

Finding balance and sharing with one another has always been important to me. During dinner discussing the high and lows of everyone's day is an easy way to balance and connect. Incorporating short daily devotions into your bedtime routine can be helpful and promote balance and peace. Making it a priority to carve out time for worship and service can also provide us with a sense of balance even among the busy chaotic schedules many of us have these days. Worship also allows us the opportunity to draw closer to God and bond with other believers for fellowship and support.

As adults we can encourage the young people in our lives to also find a sense of balance. Whether that means lending someone a hand, allowing breaks from constant activity, teach them to pray, prioritize faith for them, reach out to others for support and encouragement.

As we begin this school year, let's remember finding our balance in the busy can ground us while helping us prioritize what matters most in our lives. Together, we can support one another, celebrate achievements, and face any challenges that arise.

In Christ, *Pastor Jaci Tiell*

If you have any pastoral care needs, please let me know. You can reach me by phone/text at 419-215-8370 or email at [pastorjaci tiell@aol.com](mailto:pastorjaci tiell@aol.com)

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## **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.**

## **August Gospel Readings...**

August 3	Luke 12: 13-21
August 10	Luke 12: 32-40
August 17	Luke 12: 49-56
August 24	Luke 13: 10-17
August 31	Luke 14: 1, 7-14



## Happy Birthday

**Congratulations...**to the following with a birthday in the month of:

### August:

Brady Buhrow	3
Carole Jacob	7
Jean Weng	13
Patricia Shaffer	20
Katherine Duncan	21
Marilyn Crandall	24
Landon Haar	24
Genise Dangler	25
Chris Tornow	26
Kylie Cordy	28
Karen Schlievert	30

**Congratulations** to those couples celebrating anniversaries in the month of:

### August

Meghan & Tim PirkI	3
Michelle & Josh Wolfe	7
Riley & Nathan Gerwin	13
Merle & Ruth Haar	23
Mark & Jennifer Haar	25
Charles & Linda Stewart	29

## Happy Anniversary

### August Food Pantry Item from Grace is:

Tuna 6 oz. cans.



The difficulties of life are intended to make us better not bitter.

## Thank You's...

**from Ruth Ann's House...**Thank you for your extremely generous donation of \$300.00 for our women at Ruth Ann's House. We are a home for women who are homeless due to domestic violence situations. Some of the women have children living with them at the house others do not. They spend their time working on becoming self-sufficient, so they can leave and maintain productive lives. Your support will allow us to continue our mission to be a "Safe Haven" for victims.

**from Luther Home of Mercy...**We are deeply grateful for your recent gift of \$400.00. Your generosity is more than a donation—it's a powerful expression of compassion and commitment to the individuals we serve. We are dedicated to enriching the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**from Dress Right Dress, Inc....**We are a Veteran specific 501©(3) nonprofit organization located in Tiffin. WE assist Veterans that are affiliated with the Justice System "right their ship" through a series of programs and resources, as well as helping them through tough times associated with life after the military. Your donation of \$300.00 will help us complete our mission.

**from Genacross...**Thank you for your gift of \$400.00. Your generosity allows us to continue our mission of "embracing individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout their journey. We have served 1700 residents, patients and clients with 372 staff. We provided \$2 million in charitable care and community benefit to those we are blessed to serve. We opened two senior adaptive pocket parks, a new basketball court at our Maumee Youth Center and a new library with bookshelves and tables. Donations provided 700 books. We appreciate your dedication to our cause.

**Used Glasses:** There is a container on the table in the Fellowship Hall for collection of used eye glasses. Check your drawers and closets for all those glasses you don't wear anymore. They will be donated to the Lion's Club.

### August/September 2025 Worship Workers:

	Deacons	Lector
8/3/2025	Deb & Jeff Boos	Rachel Beeler
8/10/2025	Bruce King/Pr. Wietelmann	Jean Wietelmann
8/17/2025	Steve Simkus/Steve Blausey	Steve Blausey
8/24/2025	Jean Weng/Becca Rickman	Jean Weng
8/31/2025	Steve Avers/Zak Avers	
9/7/2025	Mary & Mike Schlievert	Mike Schlievert
9/14/2025	Randy Jacobs/Gary Anderson	Joan Eckermann
9/21/2025	Deb & Jeff Boos	Michelle Timbrook
9/28/2025	Bruce King/Pr Wietelmann	Nancy Bennett

## SCHOOL BACKPACKS

Pastor Jaci is planning to Bless all of the Backpacks on August 17th during the worship service.

All school age children are invited to bring their back packs along with teachers and anyone with a brief case. Blessings will be given for a productive school year.



## Upcoming Board Meetings...

**August 7, 2025** at 7 pm.  
Council Meeting

**August 10, 2025** Board of  
Property meeting 9:00  
am.

**August 13, 2025** at 10:00a  
Witness & Mission

**August 19, 2025** at  
6:00pm Worship Board

**September 7, 2025** Rally  
Day! First day of Sunday  
School, God's Work –  
Our Hands

*With the new day  
comes new strength  
and new thoughts.*  
Eleanor Roosevelt

## God's Work Our Hands...

It is time to start thinking about this year's donation and collection of **"School Bags"** This would be an excellent time to make purchases during the tax-exempt sale days. Below is the list of the kit contents:

Notebook – 4 ea.	Single subject, 70 pages
Pencils – 5 ea.	#2, unsharpened w/eraser (rubber band together)
Pens – 5 ea.	Ballpoint, blue or black ink <b>NO GEL PENS</b> (rubber band together)
Ruler – 1 ea.	12 inch/30cm
Crayons - 1	24 count box
Eraser – 1 ea.	2 ½ in size
Pencil Sharpener	1 ea.
Scissors – 1 ea.	Blunt, safety style



Items cannot have religious symbols or messages, no patriotic or military symbols, US flag, camouflage decoration or references to the US armed forces.


Please purchase the items to complete one school kit. Place the items for each kit in a separate bag.

***The Grace ladies have made 77 bags (backpacks) to be filled with school supplies for the Lutheran World Relief Organization.***

## WEEKLY OFFERING 2025

Week 1	\$13,870.00	Week 2	\$1,800.00	Week 3	\$1,950.00	Week 4	\$1,282.00
Week 5	\$4,090.00	Week 6	\$1,650.00	Week 7	\$1,465.00	Week 8	\$2,510.00
Week 9	\$9,750.00	Week 10	\$1,400.00	Week 11	\$1,235.00	Week 12	\$1,510.00
Week 13	\$2,120.00	Week 14	\$2,806.00	Week 15	\$1,910.00	Week 16	\$2,770.00
Week 17	\$1,880.00	Week 18	\$2165.00	Week 19	\$2310.00	Week 20	\$2185.00
Week 21	\$1470.00	Week 22	\$2,860.75	Week 23	\$2,680.00	Week 24	\$1,665.00
Week 25	\$1,915.00	Week 26	\$5,835.00	Week 27	\$3,365.00	Week 28	\$2,800.00
Week 29	\$1,675.00	Week 30	\$ 705.00	<b>Total \$85,628.75</b>			
<b>Needed from Offering for 2025</b>		\$125,864.00	<b>Budget Gap</b>	(\$47,781.25)			
<b>Weekly Goal</b>		\$2,566.00	<b>Avg. Week</b>	\$2,854.29			

## Operation Oreo...

 Stephen Simkus has been on our Op Oreo list several times before. Stephen just left for his 3rd deployment. Goody boxes were mailed out this past week to both SPC Kassie Nissen and SFC Stephen Simkus. Please keep all of the military in your prayers but especially SPC Kassie Nissen and SFC Stephen Simkus. If you have a name to add to our roster please contact Jennifer Marquardt.

## *God Bless Our Soldiers*

### *2025 Women's Retreat*

The ladies of Bethlehem have extended an invitation to all of the women of Grace to attend the “2025 Women’s Retreat”. The retreat is centered on Paul’s travels and the way our theology is based on five themes from Paul: LOVE, PEACE, FAITH, GRACE, and JOY. The gathering is planned for September 19th thru the 21st at the Staybridge Suites in Rossford. Please contact Wendy McGee at 419-349-2757 as soon as possible if you are interested in attending so she can make room reservations.



## *SLOVENIA - From Curiosity to Confidence*

**“I see now what I could not see then. I see why Jesus died for me, and I believe in Him and trust Him as my Savior.”** That’s what Erika shared after finishing our “Genesis to Jesus” Bible Discovery series. We’ve known Erika for several years. While she was in university, she and Zina had studied the Bible together, but as a cultural Catholic, the message of salvation as a free gift never quite clicked. Looking back now, Erika reflected, **“I see now!”**

“Genesis to Jesus” takes people through 22 passages of the Bible, from Creation to the Cross, helping them to see the overall narrative of the Bible, our sin, and need of a savior. We had been working through the study with Erika and her boyfriend, Miha. When we started, Miha described the Catholic faith of people he grew up around as “hypocritical, judgmental, and argumentative.” He identified as agnostic, but even early on we could tell his heart was softening.

As we moved through the passages, both Erika and Miha shared honest observations and took personal, sometimes profound steps of application. At one point, Miha told us, “At church, they just tell you what you have to believe. But here, we can really talk about it, think about it, and understand it for ourselves.”

When we finished the final passage, we asked them where they stood. Miha said, **“I do believe, and I want Jesus to be my Savior.”** That night, both Miha and Erika prayed out loud, each expressing their faith in Christ. We celebrated with them, encouraged them in their new journey with Jesus, and discussed next steps for growing in faith. They shared how thankful they were to walk this journey together—and we are too.

### *Pray With Us*

Pray for Erika and Miha as they begin their new walk with Jesus—that they would grow in faith, remain rooted in God’s Word, and boldly share the hope they’ve found. Pray also that their relationship would be shaped by God’s love and reflect His character.

Pray for our family as we wrap up our time in Texas and begin our travels to Ohio. Ask God for energy, focus, and peace as we juggle a full schedule. Pray especially for the boys—that they would have patience, find joy in the change of pace, enjoy the long car rides, and feel peace during our many meetings.





## Council Minutes

Grace Lutheran Church Council met on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 7 pm with the following members present: Karen Hammel, John Heminger, Rachel Beeler, Deb Boos, Pastor Jaci, and guests, Jayne Klett and Gary Anderson

The meeting was called to order by Karen Hammel. Pastor Jaci opened the meeting with prayer.

Good news and prayer concerns were shared.

### **Treasurer's Report - Submitted by Mike Schlievert**

We experienced a loss for the month of May. Two of the CDs expired in May. One was converted to the money market account, as the new interest rates for CD's were barely above the Money Market. The other was transferred in early June to the Money Market hoping for better interest rates, The last one will be coming due in later June. The FAB (Financial Advisory Board) will be meeting next week to set a course for investments.

### **Pastor's Report - Reported by Pastor Jaci**

- Isaiah 117 House coming along. First annual golf outing fundraiser on September 26th at Heatherdowns Country Club

- Confirmation was amazing!! Thank you to all who helped make it such a memorable experience.

- Attended a Luncheon Discussion seminar at Ottawa County Resource Center in Oak Harbor addressing affordable childcare for the county and surrounding areas.

- Ladies Night Out- July 20th at 5:30pm at The Mockingbird.

- Jay Herman will be with us to worship and lead a bible study on June 29th at 5:30pm. We will have a sign-up sheet for folks to bring an appetizer or dessert.

### **Board of Ministry Reports**

#### **Board of Witness and Mission - Reported by John Heminger**

1. Advent and Lenten special projects have been selected:

Advent – Roosters & Chicks

2026 Lent Family Farm – A cow, 2 goats, 12 chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training.

2. Portage River Festival – Plans finalized for the event.

Additional people still needed to staff the booth. One or two-hour shifts 10 am – 3 pm.

3. Jayne Klett reported on behalf of the Future Planning Committee.

Benevolence: First Fruit balance reviewed: 2025 Fund Balance- \$158.09, \$400 payment was made to Luther Home of Mercy.

Directed Funds balance reviewed: 2025 Fund Balance - \$337.15, \$300 payment was made to Ruth Ann's House.

#### **Board of Worship - Reported by Rachel Beeler**

- Pentecost - June 8 -Affirmation of Baptism (and Baptism) for Adelyn Simkus and Jaycie Marquardt

- Choir Resumes - September 2nd or 9th

- Rally Day - September 7

- First Sunday back in Sanctuary will be October 5

Other Business

- Jayne Klett reported from the Future Planning Committee

#### **Old Business:**

Future Planning Committee - Jayne and Gary presented options for a new leadership structure for Grace based on the results from the small group discussion groups. After discussion, the Future Planning Committee is still considering options and council recommendations and will continue meeting this summer to review the matter.

#### **New Business**

1. The Scholarship Committee awarded Eve Jackson The Grace Lutheran Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$750. She is a recent graduate of Toledo School for the Arts and will be attending Denison University in the fall. Congratulations, Eve!

2. Jay Herman will be leading a Bible Study on June 29th at 5:30.

A motion was made by Deb, second John, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, *Karen Hammel*, Church Council Secretary



# A BIBLE STUDY ABOUT GIDEON, AN OBSCURE JUDGE

About this Month's Bible Study: The Old Testament Book of Judges is one of the more difficult books of the Bible to read and understand. The book presents a series of stories about how the Israelites suffered calamities and oppression and how God choose Judges to lead them by defeating their enemies. These stories teach us lessons about how God deals with his people. This month's study uses the story of Judge Gideon to teach us one of these lessons. **Gary Anderson**



## **Judges 6:11-16 (NIV) GOD CALLED GIDEON TO BE AN ISRAELITES LEADER**

**11** The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. **12** the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior. "

**13** "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian."

**14** The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

**15** "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family. "

**16** The LORD answered, "I will be with you..."

Judges were charismatic Israelite leaders who served as military leaders during the years when the Israelites were attempting to occupy the "promised land" and establish homes for their people. The Biblical stories about these leaders are mostly found in the Book of Judges. During this period, roughly 1,400 BCE to 1,100 BCE, Israel was at best a confederation of tribes, not yet a nation. The Judges' stories followed a cyclical pattern. The Israelites would turn away from God and worship the gods of the peoples whose lands they occupied. The Israelites then suffered severe hardships as a result of God's punishment for their apostasy, usually through

oppression by those peoples. When the Israelites cried out to God to be rescued, He would choose a Judge from one of the Israelite tribes who, with God's support, would then conquer and usually slaughter the people who oppressed them.

The succession of 15 Judges who succeeded Joshua included six so-called major Judges: Othniel, Ehud, Deborah (yes, there was a woman judge), Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson. Eli and Samuel were the last Judges before Saul, the first King. In this Bible study we will consider the Gideon story in Judges 6-8 to help us understand how God answers his people's calls to be rescued from oppression by calling Judges to lead their rescue from oppression.



This 19th century woodcut shows Gideon receiving a sign that convinced him he was talking to God's

The Gideon story took place during a time when the Israelites were being oppressed by a people called the Midianites. After Deborah led them to victory over the Canaanites, Israel had enjoyed forty years of peace until, **“The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites”** (v6:1). The Midianites ruined the Israelite crops and slaughtered their livestock. Things were so bad the Israelites took to hiding in mountain caves to escape Midianite wrath. The Israelites had ample reason to ask God to rescue them.

**The Angel of the Lord.** God used angels as messengers to deliver His calls to his chosen several times. Angels of the Lord appeared to Abraham and Moses. In the New Testament, Angels brought messages to Elizabeth and Mary, the mother of Jesus. When the Angel appeared to Gideon, he was terribly frightened because **“I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face”** (v.6:22). But the Lord reassured him, **“Peace! Do not be afraid”** (v6:11).



*This Greek Orthodox icon celebrates the Judge Gideon and his exploits.*

**Gideon’s Protest.** Gideon didn’t respond immediately the Lord’s call. He said, “I can’t do this, my tribe is the least in Israel and I am the least in my family.” The Lord’s response, **“I will be with you.”** (v6:15).

**Gideon’s Demand for a Sign.** Gideon was still not convinced he was talking to the Lord, **“give me a sign that it is really you.”** After special preparations, the Angel gave a sign with fire and disappeared (v6:17).

Despite Gideon’s resistance, God was patient; he did not give up on Gideon.

**Gideon Finally Acted as God Instructed him.** The Gideon story goes on to tell how Gideon’s first actions, cutting down a Baal altar and an Asherah pole were done in the dark of night because he was fearful of reprisals from the people. When he finally took on the Midianites in real battle, he used deception (three-hundred trumpets, etc.) to achieve ultimate victories over the Midianites.

**Only God should be our ruler.** After Gideon led the Israelites to victory over the Midianites, they invited him to become their king and found a dynasty. Gideon refused, he told them, **“I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The Lord will rule over you”** (v8:24).

Gideon’s response to God’s call was typical of how so many of us respond when our church asks people to step forward and assume leadership roles. We say we are not capable of fulfilling those responsibilities, even as God promises, **“I will be with you.”** Our faith in God’s presence is weak, we want God to give us a sign that He is real. When we finally realize God is calling us to do something, we will try to act in the dark of night, so we won’t arouse the ire of other. But **Gideon shows us that no matter how much we resist God’s call, God will not give up on us, just as God did not give up on Gideon.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				6:30pm - 7:30 pm Jazzercise	1	2  9:00am - 10:am Jazzercise
3 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  <b>10:30am - Worship Fellowship Hall</b>	4  4:30pm– 5:30pm Jazzercise	5  6:30pm - 7:30 pm Jazzercise	6  4:30pm– 5:30pm Jazzercise	7  6:30pm - 7:30 pm Jazzercise  7:00p - Council	8  <b>Food Pantry Open 9:00 - Noon</b>	9  9:00am - 10:am Jazzercise
10 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  9:00am– Property Board  <b>10:30am - Worship Fellowship Hall</b>	11  4:30pm– 5:30pm Jazzercise	12  6:30pm - 7:30 pm Jazzercise	13  10:00am - Board of Witness & Mission  4:30pm– 5:30pm Jazzercise	14  6:30pm - 7:30 pm Jazzercise	15	16  9:00am - 10:am Jazzercise  Summer Bash at St. John's Oak Harbor 12:00 to 3:00
17 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  <b>10:30am - Worship Fellowship Hall</b> Blessing of the Backpacks	18  4:30pm– 5:30pm Jazzercise	19  <b>Parish Reporter DEADLINE</b>  6:00pm– Worship Board  6:30pm - 7:30 pm Jazzercise	20  4:30pm– 5:30pm Jazzercise	21  6:30pm - 7:30 pm Jazzercise	22	23  9:00am - 10:am Jazzercise
24 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  <b>10:30am - Worship Fellowship Hall</b>  SAM Clyde Bame-preaching	25 School starts at <b>Woodmore</b> 4:30pm– 5:30pm Jazzercise   7:00pm - Sensory Service at Trinity	26  6:30pm - 7:30 pm Jazzercise	27  4:30pm– 5:30pm Jazzercise	28  6:30pm - 7:30 pm Jazzercise	29	30  9:00am - 10:am Jazzercise
31 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30am - Worship Fellowship Hall						
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The more we do for others, the more we do for ourselves.</i></p>						



