



THE PARISH REPORTER

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Praising, Growing, Serving in Jesus' name

Pastor Jaci Tiell

September 2025



Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. This is the introduction for the lectionary this coming week. But the phrase **Invited and inviting** made me stop. I don't often read something and immediately stop but I did just that!

Now some of you were born into a family that has always attended church. And as a result, your parents brought you to church and so you've attended ever since. Or maybe not maybe you fell away from church at some point in your life. That's a common occurrence and many of us do that. We get out of the habit of attending worship due to college, life circumstances, work commitments, social commitments, or even covid. Whatever the reason, we may need invited back.

Or you weren't born into a family, and someone initially **invited** you to attend worship or some other event at their church. Who **invited** you to church? My mom unexpectedly raised me and two siblings as single parent due to messy life circumstances and a cousin invited us to church. We had other relatives who also attended there. We went to worship and festival of faith (old school family VBS) and my mom decided we would join the church shortly after that. Our participation occurred because of that initial invitation and then by God's urging to become more involved and know Jesus.

And now today who are we **inviting**? Who are we inviting to church? Who are we inviting to get to know Jesus? I hope and pray it's someone or maybe a few people. This time of year, when we get back into the swing of regular attendance and worship and activities. Now is a great time to be thinking and praying about the folks that we want to be inviting to participate in worship or activities so that others might know Jesus.

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 pastorjacitiell@aol.com

In Christ,

Pastor Jaci Tiell

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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.



Congratulations...to the following with a birthday during September:

Happy Birthday!

Nancy Pries	2
Ronald Dangler	4
Elsie Rickman	5
Linda Ladd	6
Korvin Heitzman	10
Steve Blausey	10
Nancy Daniel	11
Debra Boos	12
Joe Hammel	12
Shirley Damschroder	17
Robert Kayden	20
Jayne Klett	22
Mary Kohli	23
Rebecca Rickman	29

Congratulations: to those couples celebrating anniversaries during September:

Donald & MaryLou Kohli	1
Rachel & Matt Haar	4
Molly & Zak Avers	5
Kevin & Krista Jackson	6
John & Karen Marik	7
Jeremiah & Kristin Cordy	25
Randall & Debra Ford	25
Dave & Rhonda Hanthorn	25
Doug & Kathy Buhrow	27
Steve & Amy Simkus	29
Chris & Jennifer Marquardt	30

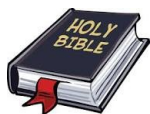
September's Food Pantry

Item from Grace:

Noodles—16 oz bag
Food Pantry Date
September 12th
9:00 to Noon

September Gospel Readings...

Sept. 7 Luke 14: 25-33
Sept 14 John 3: 13-17
Sept 21 Luke 16: 1-13
Sept 28 Luke 16: 19-31



Charity Bike Ride

Grace will be providing lunch for participants in the Habitat for Humanity Biking 4 Builds Charity Bike Ride on Sunday, October 5th. The ten mile loop will begin at 2 pm at Ory Park in Elmore and travel to Lindsey and back. We will be providing lunch at the conclusion of the ride. Please watch for more details! We will need members to donate, help coordinate, and help serve! Please contact Karen Hammel if you are willing to help!



Registration forms to ride need to be turned in by September 15th to get a t-shirt. Cost is \$25.00 to ride. There are registration forms on the table in the back of the Fellowship Hall.

Thrivent Members...Choice Dollars—Check your account and donate your Choice Dollars to a favorite charity. **Action Team Project** - Claim your \$250.00 and plan a project or purchase supplies to support a project. You can do two projects a year. Share God's blessings with the seed money provided. See John Heminger for questions. **Non– Thrivent Members** - Partner with a Thrivent member to organize a project. You provide the ideas and your Thrivent partner can get the seed money

Attention Ladies...

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women's Retreat.

The retreat is scheduled for September 19-21 in Rossford at the Staybridge Suites. The program is: Five themes from Paul: LOVE, PEACE, FAITH, GRACE, and JOY.



Attn: Ladies of Grace and Bethlehem

The next "Ladies Night Out" has been scheduled for September 28, 2025, at the Ground Round in Perrysburg at 5:30pm. A sign up sheet will be out soon.

September/October Worship Workers...

Deacons

Lectors

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
10/5/2025	Steve Simkus/Steve Blausey	Steve Blausey
10/12/2025	Jean Weng/Becca Rickman	Rachel Beeler
10/19/2025	Steve Avers/Zak Avers	Peggy Avers
10/26/2025	Mary & Mike Schlievert	MaryLou Kohli

Get in Touch with Grace...

www.graceelconline.org is our web site. Check out the site. 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.

OPERATION OREO...

Stephen Simkus left for his 3rd deployment. Please keep all of the military in your prayers but especially **PFC Kassie Nissen** and **SFC Stephen Simkus**. If you have a name to add to our roster please contact Jennifer Marquardt.

God Bless Our Soldiers!!!

Date to Remember...

Daniel R. Boyle, organist will present an afternoon of organ music on Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 3:00pm. Join him at Solomon Lutheran Church at 305 West Main Street, Woodville. A reception will follow the performance.

Rally Day -



Sunday School will resume on September 7th at **9:45 a.m.** for the **preschool and elementary** students. Peggie Avers and Jean Weng will rotate as preschool teachers. Deb Boos and Jean & Dave Weitemann will rotate as teachers for the elementary class. Invitations are being mailed to the children. Additional invitations are available on the back table for anyone who wants to invite a child to join us in Sunday School.

Confirmation class and adult classes **will begin earlier, at 9:30**. Jayne Klett will lead confirmation. Nancy Bennett and Krista Jackson will lead a new opportunity entitled, Gifted Hands. The participants will learn and use knitting, crocheting and other needle skills to create items for themselves and others. No prior knowledge or skill is required. If you would like to learn, here is your chance. The participants, as a group, will decide what skill to work on and identify possible recipients for their finished products.

Summit On Aging— Financial Exploitation & Scams.. The Ottawa County Task Force on Aging has invited everyone to a workshop to equip senior citizens and those who interact with them with the knowledge and tools to recognize and avoid scams that threaten financial security. Tuesday, September 9th at 8:30am at St. John's Lutheran Church, 122 W. Ottawa St. Oak Harbor. More information can be found on the flyer on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

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	\$2,460.00	Week 29	\$1,675.00	Week 30	\$ 705.00
Week 31	\$4,160.00	Week 32	\$1,925.00	Week 33	\$ 1,450.00
Week 34	\$1,330.00	Total \$94,493.75			

Needed from Offering for 2025 \$125,864.00 **Budget Gap** (\$38,916.25)

Weekly Goal \$2,566.00 **Avg. Week** \$2,779.23

When we give our offerings, we are witnesses to the love of God in Christ. Give as generously as you have received.



Throughout the year, our hands continue to do God's work when we sew and assemble quilts, gather food items for the pantry, distribute food items to area families, correspond with local members of the armed forces, drive a neighbor to an appointment, clear snow from walks and drives visit neighbors and ensure they are safe, mow a lawn or rake leaves for neighbors and friends. The list of ways you share God's love, not only on this one Sunday but throughout the year is endless.

Join us on September 7th, after worship, as we assemble Lutheran World Relief Care Kits.

Backpacks are due Sunday September 28th with School Supplies



**I Can Live For
Two Months
On A Good
Compliment.**

Mark Twain

NEWS FROM SLOVENIA... *God Is on the Move Across EUROPE...With Love From Jay and Zina*

We're back in Slovenia after a wonderful summer in the States, encouraged and energized by our time with many of you. Being responsible to raise all our financial support its not always easy but having such generous ministry partners and friends is a great blessing. We are so grateful of all the way you bless our ministry, our family, and encourage our spiritual growth. Thank you so much!

Shortly after returning, we and our whole team had the privilege of attending the first-ever All-European Cru Staff Conference in Berlin. Over 2,000 staff from more than 45 countries gathered together for a week of worship, vision, and equipping. As I stood in the crowded room, I thought of the hundreds of ministry partners we have—and the many we were able to reconnect with this summer. Then I looked around and saw all the staff around us: hundreds of thousands of believers, all playing their part in seeing the gospel reach the lost across Europe.

Berlin was a fitting location for the event because thirty-five years ago, it was where East and West reunited. For us, it marked the first time our staff—previously separated into two regional areas—came together as one region, united by one vision: helping fulfill the Great Commission and Great Commandment in every corner of Europe.

One especially encouraging story came from the team preparing to move to Norway this coming April. For years, Norway has been the largest country in Europe without Cru staff. After a vision trip last fall (which Zina joined), a team 5 staff from Moldova has committed to move and begin student ministry there. This is a direct answer to prayer—and a major step toward launching gospel movements everywhere. Please join us in praying for staff to be raised up for [other unreached nations in Europe](#), including Iceland, Luxembourg, Bosnia, and Denmark, where there is currently no long-term presence.

Zina also had the privilege of helping lead a coaching workshop during the conference, with more than 60 staff in attendance. These coaching skills are a vital tool for ministry, helping staff multiply their impact by equipping and empowering others. Many were deeply encouraged by the experience, and we're excited to see how God will continue to use these tools through the FOCOS team that Zina serves with.



Save the Date:

Grace Chicken Dinner Drive

Thru: September 28th from 11:30 am until sold out. Volunteer help is needed.

Charity Bike Ride: Fundraiser for "Habitat for Humanity of Ottawa County" October 5th at 2:00pm at Ory Park. Grace will be providing lunch for the participants. Volunteers needed

Bethlehem Stuffed Cabbage

Dinner: Sunday, October 19th. Proceeds go to mailing of "Operation Christmas Child" boxes. More information will be available soon.

GAME NIGHT...

Do you like games, putting puzzles together, or just socializing? Come join the fun on Monday's at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Altar Guild..

The Guild is looking for more participants for their rotation. If anyone is interested or would like to learn more please see Jean Weng or Pastor Jaci.

Mission Cry out of Fowler, Michigan is asking for everyone to collect their Used Bibles (if no longer used or wanted) and donate them to those who have none.

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.



Grace Church Council

Grace Lutheran Church Council met on Thursday, August 7, 2025 at 7 pm A motion was made by Rachel, second Deb, to approve the June 2025 Council Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Submitted by Mike Schlievert

It was a difficult month with the second half of the insurance payment due and low giving for the month of July. This takes us back to a loss for the year, but we are still ahead of the budget level. From an investment standpoint, we have the annuity set up from Huntington with the parsonage money. We have started the CD ladder with MIF as directed by the FAB board. So, on a brighter note, the investment returns are starting to materialize.

Pastor's Report - Reported by Pastor Jaci

- Jay Herman led a meaningful bible study and it was a great visit!
- Attended a luncheon about shared childcare spaces at Ottawa county resource center. We will be investigating this as an option for Grace.
- Game nights are great! Only able to attend once, so far but a great time!
- Megan Marik - December 13th wedding at Grace.
- Isaiah 117 Holy Graffiti event was great! Pickleball fundraiser netted 10k. Golf outing September 26th.
- Ladies night out was good even with having to change locations. Next night out... September 28.
- Habitat for Humanity bike ride from Elmore to Lindsey on October 5th- Sponsoring a luncheon for the riders.

Board of Property - Zak Avers The board appreciates those who filled out their survey. They will be pursuing the resurfacing of the parking lot in the near future.

Board of Witness and Mission - John Heminger The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Board of Worship - Rachel Beeler Choir will start on Tuesday September 9, 2025 at 6 pm. We will move back to the sanctuary for worship on October 5.

Board of Education - Submitted by Jayne Klett Planning for Sunday School has started. Please add these possibilities of new programming to your prayers: a) Adult class on Sunday morning, possibly named "Gifted Hands", during which knitting, crocheting, and other yarn and fabric arts will be taught. Items can be made for donation for personal use. The participants will determine the scope of activities. b) The formation of a Jr Youth group is in its early stages. The vision is that this group includes elementary and junior high youth that would meet monthly. c) Another change in its early planning stage is arranging for volunteers to oversee the nursery during worship on Sunday mornings. This was an idea shared at a Listening Session.

Old Business: Future Planning Committee - Jayne Klett presented the Proposed Council and Leadership Structure to council. She has been in contact with the Synod and is following the proper protocol to propose and potentially implement the new Grace Lutheran Constitution. **New Business None**

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 7 pm. Respectfully Submitted, **Karen Hammel**, Church Council Secretary

A BIBLE STUDY ABOUT SAMUEL, THE LAST OF THE JUDGES

Samuel was the last of the Old Testament Judges before Israel began its first tragic experiences with a king (Saul). Like Moses, Samuel served as a Priest, Prophet, and Judge. Samuel's birth, his being dedicated by his mother to a life of service to God, his leadership in defeating the Philistines and his prudent administration of justice make him worthy of our study of the leaders of God's people. Gary Anderson



I Samuel 1:20, 24, 28 (NIV)

²⁰So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him."

²⁴After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh.

²⁷I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. ²⁸So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD."

Like Sarah, the mother of Isaac, and Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, Samuel's mother Hannah was well past child-bearing age when God answered her fervent pleas to conceive and give birth to a child. Like Samson the Judge, Samuel's mother dedicated him to the service of the Lord at a very early age. When Samuel was born, Hannah regarded him as a gift from God and vowed to dedicate him to the service of the LORD. After he was weaned, she took her child to the temple at Shiloh where, "***the boy ministered before the LORD under Eli the Priest***" (I Sa. 2:11).

I Samuel 3:10-13 (NIV)

¹⁰The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

¹¹And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it burn. ¹²At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. ¹³For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them.



This 17th century painting depicts Hanna presenting her son Samuel to Eli the Priest.

The setting for Samuel's first major episode as a priest trainee occurred because Eli's sons, who might have succeeded him, were wicked and corrupt. They were enriching themselves off the sacrifices people brought to the shrine at Shiloh. One of the more delightful stories in the Old Testament is 1st Samuel's account of God calling

the young boy Samuel to inform him about his plans to destroy the house of Eli because of its corruption. At night, while Samuel slept, God called ***“Samuel, Samuel”*** three times. Each time Samuel thought it was Eli who called him, and each time Eli said, ***“I did not call; go back and lie down.”*** But after the third time, Eli realized it was God who was calling Samuel and advised him to respond to God by saying, ***“Speak, for your servant is listening.”*** God then informed the young boy of his plans for the house of Eli. Eli asked Samuel what God had told him ***“so Samuel told him everything.”*** The story continues by reporting that ***“The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word. And Samuel’s word came to all Israel*** (I Sa. 3:21, 4:1). Samuel became a Prophet.

I Samuel 7:5-6, 10, 15 (NIV)

⁵***Then Samuel said, “Assemble all Israel at Mizpah, and I will intercede with the LORD for you.”***

⁶***When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the LORD. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, “We have sinned against the LORD.” Now Samuel had become a Judge over the people of Israel at Mizpah.***

¹⁰***While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites.***

¹⁵***Samuel continued as Israel’s leader all the days of his life. ¹⁶From year to year he went on a circuit from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah, judging Israel in all those places.***



A 17th century icon of Samuel the Prophet.

The story of Samuel continued with reports about escalating Philistine attacks against the Israelites. Eli’s sons were killed in one of these attacks and a then elderly Eli died. The Philistines captured the Ark of God which supposedly contained the Mosaic tablet and represented the presence of God. By then Samuel had grown to become a leader. In addition to serving as a Prophet, he had now ***“become a Judge over the people of Israel at Mizpah.”*** Under Samuel’s leadership, and with God fighting for the Israelites, the Philistines were defeated. ***“For as long as Samuel lived, the Philistines ceased to be a threat”*** (I Sa. 7:13). Samuel continued to serve God and the people by going from city to city hearing appeals and administering justice.

The story of Samuel tells us a lot about what God expects from the leaders of his people. First, they must listen when God speaks. Leaders must pray for their people and inspire them to follow God, both through personal examples and by proclaiming the word of God to them. And in their everyday lives, leaders must always work for justice, encouraging the people to do what is right, according to God’s teachings.



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  Labor Day 6:30 Planning Mtg	2 6:30 Planning Mtg	3 "Calling All Singers" <i>Our choir season is beginning! Please consider rehearsing Tuesday evening, September 9th at 6:00pm. Let's make a joyful noise together!</i>	4	5	6
7 RALLY DAY Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:45am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship 	8 6:00pm-Game Night	9 All School Kits need to be returned by September 28th. 6:00pm - Choir	10 10:00am Witness & Mission	11 7:00pm- Council	12 9:00am-Noon FOOD PANTRY	13
14 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:45am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship	15 6:00pm-Game Night	16 6:00pm - Choir	17	18	19 Bethlehem/Grace Women's Retreat	20 Bethlehem/Grace Women's Retreat
21 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:45am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Bethlehem/Grace Women's Retreat	22 6:00pm-Game Night	23 DEADLINE for PARISH REPORTER 6:00p - Choir	24	25	26	27
28 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:45am - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Clyde Bame -Preaching Chicken Dinner Drive-Thru 5:30 pm Ladies Night Out-Ground Round	29 6:00pm-Game Night	30 6:00p - Choir				