

Christmas Eve Services...

Christmas Eve worship services will take place at both Bethlehem and Grace on Friday, the 24th of December. The first worship service will begin at Bethlehem at 6:00pm. The service here at **Grace will begin at 8:00 PM.**



First Sunday after Christmas...

Please plan to continue your Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 26th with a service of Lessons and Carols, led by Joan Eckermann. The service will begin at 10:30 am. There is a sheet on the Narthex table to assist with the readings.

Lessons & Carols

December Gospel Readings

December 5— Luke 3: 1-6
December 12— Luke 3: 7-18
December 19- Luke 1: 39-45
December 24 - Luke 2: 1-14
December 26- Luke 2: 41-52



"⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Philippians 4:4-5

Advent is a time of watching and waiting. Advent invites us to wait in hope: for peace, for joy, for the restoration of all that is broken, for the fulfillment of all things in Christ. While waiting can often be a challenge for us, the past two years have required a level of patience beyond the norm. We are likely wearier of waiting than we would typically be. And yet during Advent we wait in hope longing for peace, and joy, and restoration.

In our society waiting and longing are often overlooked. In our culture immediate gratification is standard and people are often in a hurry and that makes it hard to stop to watch and wait. Yet as we wait, we would do well to focus on the longing for peace, for joy and for restoration. Where do you find peace? Where do you see joy? What might need to be restored?

As we wait this year for the birth of Jesus and His coming again, I pray we can have a time of more purposeful waiting. Purposeful waiting that just might include finding peace, seeing joy and being a witness to restoration.

Peace,

Pastor Jaci Tiell

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



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.

The **final quarter of 2021** provides opportunities for you to get involved, or be more involved, with sharing your faith through projects and activities. Don't let your talents and gifts go to waste.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE.

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at Grace on Monday, December 20th, from 12:00 to 6:00 PM. Volunteers are needed for shifts from 12:00 to 3:00 and from 3:00 to 6:00, to sign in donors and work in the refreshment area. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex table. If you'd like to help, please sign up there or contact Joan Eckermann (cell: 419-350-4088; work: 419-332-2081, ext. 245) Thank you!



In the middle
 of every
 difficulty lies
 opportunity
 Albert Einstein

Blue Christmas Service Opportunities...

For those who have suffered the loss of a loved one, the following churches are providing a Blue Christmas Service:

- 1) December 14, @ 4:00pm - Sylvania UCC in-person & live stream
- 2) December 21, @ 7:00pm - Augsburg, Toledo service will include candle lighting and individual prayer with laying on of hands
- 3) December 19, @ 4:00pm - St. John's in Fremnot

St. John's Lutheran, Stony Ridge has invited everyone to join them for the music and performance of Siberian Solstice. They are the cover band for Trans Siberian Orchestra. The performance is December 10, 2021 at 7:00pm. No ticket is required. A free will offering will be collected.

WEEKLY OFFERING 2021

Week 1	\$2,375.00	Week 2	\$2,207.00
Week 3	\$2,569.00	Week 4	\$9,917.00
Week 5	No worship	Week 6	\$7,769.00
Week 7	\$7,111.00	Week 8	\$1,490.00
Week 9	\$3,146.00	Week 10	\$2,913.00
Week 11	\$1,800.00	Week 12	\$3,069.00
Week 13	\$952.00	Week 14	\$3,440.35
Week 15	\$2,579.00	Week 16	\$1,987.00
Week 17	\$1,432.00	Week 18	\$2,487.00
Week 19	\$1,610.00	Week 20	\$2,309.00
Week 21	\$1,787.00	Week 22	\$1,327.00
Week 23	\$7,090.00	Week 24	\$1,785.00
Week 25	\$2,374.00	Week 26	\$1,442.00
Week 27	\$2,797.00	Week 28	\$1,567.00
Week 29	\$2,305.00	Week 30	\$1,932.00
Week 31	\$3,142.00	Week 32	\$3,212.00
Week 33	\$1,037.00	Week 34	\$1,702.65
Week 35	\$2,017.00	Week 36	\$2,202.00
Week 37	\$1,845.00	Week 38	\$2,232.00
Week 39	\$6,302.00	Week 40	\$5,698.00
Week 41	\$2,124.00	Week 42	\$3,662.00
Week 43	\$1,287.00	Week 44	\$4,107.00
Week 45	\$3,335.00	Week 46	\$2,067.00
Week 47	\$2,052.00	Week 48	\$5,972.00
Total	\$139,564.00		

Needed from Offering for 2021 \$150,000 Budget Gap (\$10,436.00)
 Weekly Goal \$2,884 Avg. Week \$2,907

Thank You
 FOR
GIVING
 GENEROUSLY

Our offering is a faith statement. By offering our treasure to God, we believe that what we do here in this church does make a difference in this world. With glad and generous hearts, we lift our offerings to God

Get in Touch with Grace...

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

Joyce has returned to working Tuesday thru Thursday in the church office. (usually morning hours) 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.



Congratulations...to the following with a birthday in

December:

Scott Hetrick	1
Ruth Haar	3
Jane Schlievert	4
Hannah Timbrook	6
Jacob Stahl	19
Tyler Stahl	19
Sharon Dailey	22
Karen Hammel	23
Phoebe Jackson	24
Jennifer Marquardt	25



BEST WISHES also to those

couples celebrating December anniversaries:

Jean & Pr David Wietelmann 19

December's Food Pantry Item from GRACE

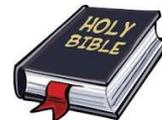
CEREAL

14—18oz Box

Thank You...

...from LOMO Camps...We hold the conservation ns, games, peaceful moments, laughter, hikes, worship, and time with family and friends at cam as gifts of God's bounty. Thank you for supporting this ministry with your gifts and prayers.

...from Mission Cry, Fowlerville, Michigan...Thank you for your generous donation of \$400.00 and 1501 lbs of Christian Literature. Your donation helps supply people around the world with the only things that don't return void: His Word and Christian books. Encouragement is needed for such a time as this, with Christian martyrdom and violent attacks Only heaven knows the full story and the impact that you are having. Someday you will also know and see your impact of hope, in what appears to be a hopeless situation. A large portion of your donations will be spreading Christian literature to Albania, Pakistan, India, and Ghana.



Operation Oreo...

Thanksgiving cards were mailed to our soldiers. Each card included a few Thanksgiving coloring pages. Thank you to the young children of the congregation for the great artwork!! I am sure the Op Oreo soldiers will love it!!

Please keep all of the military in your prayers, but especially SGT Stephen Simkus and Cadet Julian Sanchez.



Anyone wishing to donate to Operation Oreo to help offset the cost of shipping and also the contents of the Goody boxes -- Just mark "Op Oreo" on the memo line of your check. If you have a name to add to our list or if you have any questions about Operation Oreo, please contact Jennifer Marquardt

December/January Worship Workers...

Deacons

12/5/2021	Mary & Mike Schlievert
12/12/2021	Gary Anderson/Randy Jacobs
12/19/2021	Deb & Jeff Boos
12/24/2021	Merlyn & Jean Weng
12/26/2021	Rachel Beeler & Pr Wietelmann
1/2/2022	Steve Simkus/Steve Blausey
1/9/2022	Gene Michel/Alan Wolfe
1/16/2022	Bruce King/Pr. Wietelmann
1/23/2022	Mary & Mike Schlievert
1/30/2022	Gary Anderson/Randy Jacobs

Lectors

John Marik
Steve Blausey
Mary Schlievert
Gary Anderson
Jean Wietelmann
Ruth Anderson
Jean Weng
Michelle Timbrook
Steve Blausey
John Marik



GRACE COUNCIL REPORT

Grace conducted its annual fall congregational meeting after worship on the 7th of November. This is the meeting where the budget for the coming year must be presented and approved. It is also the meeting where Officers and Board Chairmen for the next year are elected. This **Council Report** provides an update on that meeting, the 2022 Grace budget and the members who will serve as Officers and Board Chairmen in 2022.

A Resolution of Appreciation for the Call Committee. A six-member Call Committee was elected by the congregation in August 2020. Their frequent meetings and conscientious work resulted in their unanimous recommendation in June 2021 to call Pastor Jaci Tiell as Grace's Pastor. Their recommendation was subsequently approved by Grace's congregation and Synod. The 7 November Congregational Meeting approved a resolution of "*thanks and appreciation*" for **Amy Simkus** (Co-Chair), **Matthew Haar** (Co-Chair), **Karen Hammel**, **Ruth Ann Anderson**, **Randy Jacobs** and **John Marik** who served as members of this committee.

A Resolution of Appreciation for Outgoing Council Members. Three members of the 2021 Council completed terms of office and will not continue as Council members in 2022. The Congregational Meeting approved a resolution of "*thanks and appreciation*" for outgoing Board of Ministry Chairs **Rachel Beeler** (Worship), **Amy Simkus** (Witness and Mission) and **Steve Simkus** (Property). All three contributed many hours of dedicated work to the church in fulfilling their responsibilities during the past year.

The 2022 Budget. The presentation of the 2022 budget included detailed information about historic contributions and expenditures at Grace. Annual offerings, which constitute 89 percent of Grace's income, have remained relatively constant over the last six years at about \$150,000 per year. Grace now partners with Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Toledo to fund a three-quarter-time Pastoral Compensation Package for Pastor Jaci Tiell, who serves both congregations. The 2022 budget included increases in this package that were recommended by the Synod. The 2022 budget continues the recent policy of allocating ten percent of all offerings to Benevolences and six percent of all offerings to the Church's Maintenance Fund. The 2022 budget projects unrestricted income of \$139,400, expenditures of \$125,558 and an end of year surplus of \$13,842. Benevolence and Maintenance Funds are budgeted separately. Congregational approval of this budget was unanimous.

The 2022 Council. The other major action taken during the congregational meeting was the election of Officers and Board of Ministry Chairmen for 2022. The following members will serve on Grace's Congregational Council members during the coming year:

Gary Anderson	President
Karen Hammel	Secretary
Randy Jacobs	Treasurer
Deb Boos	Financial Secretary
Mary Schlievert	Chair, Board of Congregational Life
Steve Blausey	Chair, Board of Property
Nancy Pries	Chair, Board of Witness and Mission
Joan Eckermann	Chair, Board of Worship and Music

The Council normally meets once a month via Zoom™ or in person. Members who have matters they want the Council to take up should contact the President or Secretary. Board of Ministry meetings are listed in the "*Upcoming Activities and Events*" calendar that is published in Grace's **Weekly Messages**. Board meetings are open meetings and anyone who is interested in becoming involved in the work of one of these Boards is encouraged to contact the Chair or just come to one of their meetings. They will receive a warm welcome.

Gary Anderson, Council President

Blessings to
each of you
for a Joyful
and Safe
Christmas
Season

from Pastor Jaci and
the Church Staff

Happy moments
Praise God
Difficult moments
Seek God

Quiet moments
Worship God
Painful moments
Trust God
Every moment
Thank God



FAVORITE HYMNS?

Members of the Grace Family who have favorite hymns that they would like to see included in worship services are invited to submit the names of those hymns to Church Musician Bobbi Bean.



SOUP (AND BREAD) WITH THE SAVIOR!

Join us on Wednesdays during Advent for soup and bread suppers at 6pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7pm! Bring your favorite soup or bread to share! Please bring your own beverage if possible. Bottled water and coffee will be provided. If you bring soup, please bring your own ladle



WOODMORE H. S. NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY SHOE DRIVE

The Woodmore National Honor Society (NHS) Chapter is participating in a fundraiser where there is nothing for you to buy or sell - all they need is your support and your old shoes!! They are looking for anyone to participate in this fundraiser: staff, students, and community members. Here is how you can help: Look in your family's closets and gather pairs of shoes that you've outgrown, are out of style, or are out of season (Shoes should be in gently used condition; they must not be broken or damaged shoes that can't be worn!). These shoes will be used to support individuals in developing nations like Ghana, Haiti and Bolivia. You can give your shoes (in a plastic bag) to Rachel Beeler or drop them off at the following locations: 1) Woodmore High School (Elmore) 3) Woodville and Elmore Libraries 4) Christy's Corner Café



The Values We Share...

- + Worship weekly. + Invite others to join us. +
- + Embrace one another. +
- + Keep on learning. + Give regularly and generously. +

Student—Led Movements from Slovenia...

For the first time in nearly 18 months, students are back in Ljubljana. While there are still some restrictions we are able to meet in person again and find new students that are open to the Gospel. As I shared in our previous newsletter, we are praying to reach all 2 million people in Slovenia by reaching students who will launch Bible studies in each of the 212 municipalities in Slovenia. One way we are connecting with new students is by going on campus and asking what are challenges that they are facing and offering to pray for them. That's how I met Simon.

Simon is a second-year student studying Material Science. When we met him, he mentioned that over the past year his relationship with God has been growing thanks to his girlfriend, who he met while volunteering with the red cross over the summer last year. This immediately caught my attention, as a "relationship with God" is a rare concept here, and even more rare to hear someone use the phrase. We prayed together with him, and he kept thanking us for praying for people, and sharing how important he believed this was. We asked if he read the Bible much, and he said no, and so we asked if he would be open to reading it with us, and he said yes, but only if his girlfriend Katarina could join, because he thought she would really like it.

Fast forward two weeks and we met with the two of them, and had a great first Bible Study. Katarina identifies as Christian, and she goes to a Catholic High School. She said she doesn't think most of her peers in the student dorms believe in God, but she is still comfortable to talk about her faith. We discussed the story of the 10 lepers, and how only one returned to Jesus to thank and worship Him as Lord. Each of them noted how sometimes we can lose sight of the need to thank God for His power and presence in our lives. Simon again thanked us, and said "I wish I could do this every day!"

* Please pray for Simon and Katarina, pray that they would continue to grow in their desire to hear from God and that they would grow closer to Him through His word. Pray that they would start Bible Study groups with their friends, Katarina with those at her dorm, and Simon with his friends at school.

* Please pray for the health of our team and for the people of Slovenia. COVID is spreading at new record levels right now, and already two of my coworkers have gotten sick. Pray for our protection and wisdom.

* Please pray for God to continue to lead our team to new spiritually-open students that He is working in to bring closer to Himself.

* Please pray for me, Jay, as I assume a few new responsibilities with the team. That the Lord would give me wisdom.



Sent with love from Jay & Zina, thank you for your partnership in God's work in Slovenia!

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		10:00am-Elmore Senior Citizens 7:00pm-Chancel Choir	1 6:00pm- Advent Soup Supper & Evening Prayer Service 7:30pm - Board of Worship	2 10:00am-Elmore Senior Citizens 5:30pm - Property Meeting	3 	4
5 Second Sunday of ADVENT 10:30am - Worship	6 7:30pm Dartball vs Oak Harbor HOME	7 10:00am-Elmore Senior Citizens 4:00pm- Witness & Mission 7:00pm-Chancel Choir	8 6:00pm- Advent Soup Supper & Evening Prayer Service	9 10:00am - Elmore Senior Citizens Council @ DeStazio's Bistro		
12 Third Sunday of ADVENT 10:30am - Worship	13 7:30pm - Dartball vs Kingsway HOME	14 10:00am-Elmore Senior Citizens 7:00pm - Chancel Choir	15 6:00pm- Advent Soup Supper & Evening Prayer Service	16 10:00am - Elmore Senior Citizens	17 9:00-Noon- FOOD PANTRY	18 9:00-Noon- FOOD PANTRY
19 Fourth Sunday of ADVENT 10:30am - Worship	20 7:30pm-Dartball @ St. John's	21 Newsletter Deadline 10:00am-Elmore Senior Citizens 7:00p - Chancel Choir	22 6:00pm- Advent Soup Supper & Evening Prayer Service	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Service - 8:00pm 	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
26 First Sunday after CHRISTMAS 10:30am - Worship Lessons & Carols/led by Joan Eckermann	27	28 10:00am - Elmore Senior Citizens 7:00pm Chancel Choir	29	30 10:00am - Elmore Senior Citizens	31 	1 Happy New Year