



THE PARISH REPORTER

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Praising, Growing, Serving in Jesus' name

Pastor Jaci Tiell

October 2025



*All things come from you, and of your own have we given you.
1Chronicles 29:14*

Stewardship has many facets, and one is how we use our money, primarily in ways that help us grow in our relationship with God. It is God's, and God cares deeply that we steward our time, talents and treasures in ways that serve God's purposes for us, our neighbors in need, and for the well-being of the whole world.

One of my most favorite seminary professors, Mark Allan Powell, in his book, *Giving to God*, talks about how stewardship is first an act of worship. We hear in the Hebrew scriptures how the ancient Israelites brought their offerings or sacrifices to the altar—drink and grain offerings, animals, first fruits, the best of what they had. Remember what happened to those offerings? Yep. Lit on fire and consumed by flames. Yet, what happened to the offering after it was placed on the altar wasn't as important as the act of putting it there in the first place. The reasons for these sacrifices varied, but one thing was constant, the giving up of what was precious was done as an act of worship. The Israelites knew all they had belonged to God, given to them to care for. With heartfelt thanksgiving and devotion, they gave the best of the best back to God. Worship was a spiritual need for a people who were immersed in a way of life centered on God; they gave to God what was valuable to them because they wanted and needed to give it. One scholar noted that we ought to give not our money if we have enough but instead give what we are short on so that our giving is meaningful and genuine. So, if you are crazy busy and your calendar is overflowing give God your time. In devotion, study or maybe a church event. God wants not what we have but what we value. God ought to be our priority above all else.

We too should give not just our treasures, but our time and our talents as well as an act of worship to God. As Powell writes, "The offering is a worship event that provides us with an opportunity for expressing our love for God in the purest way imaginable, by giving up something that we value."

I pray that the Spirit moves us to give of ourselves in faith and with delight, to worship the God from whom all blessings flow.

Peace,
Pastor Jaci

Table of Contents

Pastor Jaci's Message	1
Announcements	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Worship Workers	2
Finances	3
Announcements	3
Operation Oreo	4
Announcements	4
Mission-Jay & Zina	5
Announcements	5
Gary's Bible Study	6
Gary's Bible Study	7
Calendar	8

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.

Pastoral Care...

In the event of a need for pastoral support or care, please contact Pastor Jaci Tiell at 419-215-8370 or pastorjacitiell@aol.com.
Thank you.

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

Michael Schlievert	1
Gary Anderson	8
Cheryl Hoot	14
Joan Eckermann	22
Sun Reau	30
Patricia Sondergeld	30

Happy Birthday

+ + +

"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 5	Luke 17: 5-10
October 12	Luke 17: 11-19
October 19	Luke 18: 1-8
October 26	Luke 8: 31-36

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REMINDER Set Your Clocks back!

Sunday, November 1, 20245
Daylight Savings Time Ends.

The October thru December *"Portals of Prayer"* are available. Check the table in the Narthex.. There is a large print version also available.

Future Planning Update:

The committee met with the bishop and synod representatives about our proposed changes on September 24th. Their suggestions were incorporated into our draft last week and our final proposal was sent back to synod for their final review on September 29th. The next step is for our Council to review the approved proposal and to formally recommend the changes to the congregation. At that point the full proposed constitution and bylaws will be sent to all voting members of the congregation. Q& A Sessions are being planned for members to discuss the changes and to get answers to any questions.

This has a been a long process but we are getting close to a final product. The leadership structure will be different than what we are used to but we hope the changes will be useful to our church. The committee thanks the congregation, for participating in the two rounds of Listening Sessions, and the Council for their continued support in this process.

Sunday School at Grace...

All are welcome to join Sunday morning classes.

9:30am Teens/Catechism: Our Ancestors in Faith

Teens/Adults: Gifted Hands

9:45am Preschool: Best Loved Bible Stories

Elementary: Finding God's Love and Grace



FROM the BOARD of WORSHIP... Worship in the sanctuary will resume on October 5, and we'll be moving worship items out of the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, October 4 at 10:00 a.m. Some volunteer assistance would be greatly appreciated!

HELP NEEDED...

We need four men and a truck to load our boxes of quilts, health kits, and back packs. They need to be delivered to St. Paul in New Rochester, Ohio on Saturday, October 11th from 8am –1pm. An agreed time on Friday would work. Contact Nancy Pries.

October Deacons & Lectors...

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



.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 Mission Cry

Wrapped bar soap -LWR

Miller's receipts-Youth program

Mission

Grace's October Food Pantry Item:

Peanut Butter—18 oz. jar

The Food Pantry will be open October 10th from 9:00 to Noon

Charity Bike Ride



Grace will be sponsoring a meal for the bicyclists participating in Biking for Builds on Sunday, October 5th. This Habitat for Humanity event will be held at Ory Park and the Historical Barn in Elmore.

Please consider making a financial donation towards the meal and place it in the basket on the back table. If you'd like to help serve at the event, there is a sign up sheet on the table as well! Thank you for helping make this a successful event for Habitat for Humanity.

"Reformation Potluck

There will be a lunch/brunch potluck on Reformation Sunday, October 26th, following 10:30 worship. Please sign up with the number of people so we know how many places to set. Coffee, tea, bottled water, and hot chocolate are provided; otherwise, bring your own beverage. Please bring a dish to share; tableware is provided. We look forward to seeing you there!



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	\$2,165.00
Week 19	\$2,310.00	Week 20	\$2,185.00
Week 21	\$1,470.00	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
Week 31	\$4,160.00	Week 32	\$1,925.00
Week 33	\$1,450.00	Week 34	\$1,330.00
Week 35	\$1,530.00	Week 36	\$3,455.00
Week 37	\$2,080.00	Week 38	\$1,285.00

Total \$102,843.75

Needed from Offering for 2025 \$133,410 **Budget Gap**
(\$30,566.25)

Weekly Goal \$2,566 **Avg. Week** \$2,706



Holy spirit, flow into our hearts as Your temples by Your means of grace, the Word and Sacraments so that living water may also flow out of us to others.

OPERATION OREO...

Cards were mailed out to both soldiers on our Operation Oreo list.

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!

Grace's Grape Jam.

This year's batch of Grape Jam is available in one cup (half pint) jars for a donation of \$3.00. Although the harvest was small, there is still jam to share. Donations will benefit the Isaiah 117 House.



Local Up Coming Opportunity...

.....**Saturday October 18 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 Shredded Chicken, biscuit & gravy, tossed salad, homemade cranberry sauce, applesauce, and pie. Meals will only be served drive thru. Donation \$12.00. Proceeds going to charity.



STUFFED CABBAGE DINNERS. Grace's sister church, Bethlehem Lutheran is offering Stuffed Cabbage Dinners on Sunday, October 19th. The dinner is a fund-raiser to support Bethlehem's annual Operation Christmas Child by paying shipping expenses to ship Christmas gift boxes to locations around the world. Sign-up sheets are available on the table where Grace members can order Stuffed Cabbage Dinners or Cabbage Rolls. Orders from Grace members will be delivered to Grace after worship on the 19th of October. The Stuffed Cabbage Dinners include 2 stuffed cabbages, mashed potatoes, bread & butter, and dessert. Prices are \$12.00 for adult meals. 2 Stuffed Cabbage Rolls may also be ordered separately for \$8.00 per order. Please use the sign-up sheet on the table to order your dinners or cabbage rolls. Please make checks out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Council Highlights... Council met September 11, 2025. **Mike Schlievert's report on finances** was as follows: Giving was low as we are ending the summer. Luckily, spending was low, as well, With the interest flowing in now, it minimized the loss for the month. **Pastor Jaci:** 1)attended a luncheon about shared childcare spaces at Ottawa county resource center, 2) Webinar Body of Christ: neurodivergence in the church, 3) Megan Marik, December 13th wedding, 4) Isaiah 117 house, Golf outing September 26, 5) Ladies Night Out September 28th, 6) Biking for Builds Habitat for Humanity-October 5th Ory Park, 7) October 5th Blessing of the Animals., 8) photo blessing/prayer cards/treat bags at Bethlehem and 9) Evie Heineman's funeral. **Congregational Life-**A potluck is being planned for Reformation Sunday October 28 **Property Board-**Narthex ceiling is being fixed, **Witness & Mission** - September 28th "Chicken Dinner" proceeds to Holiday Bureau and Lutheran World Relief Shipping costs Mission money was sent to: Genacross, CRU, and Dress Right Dress. **Board of Worship.**— Altar Guild was updated, Youth Sunday, November 30, Need a new head of the Bd of Worship. **Bd of Education-**Preschool will focus on Best Loved Bible Stories, elementary will identify Where's God's Love/Grace?, First year confirmation is working on Faith Ancestors. Flat Jesus was a success. A new Sunday morning opportunity is Gifted Hands, led by Krista Jackson and Nancy Bennett.

A complete copy of the minutes is available in the office.

Respectfully Submitted, *Karen Hammel*, Council Secretary

Roster Update

It is time to up date addresses, phone numbers, and emails of all parishioners. A roster will be on the Narthex table on Sunday, please update your information if you have had a change in info. If not please put an OK by your name. Thank You!!

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. The collection goes through October 15th.

Elmore Retirement Village:

The Retirement Village will be hosting a vaccine clinic in partnership with Kroger Pharmacy for residents and the Elmore area. The clinic is scheduled for Sunday, October 12th from 10:00am to 2:00pm at 633 State Street, Office Elmore, Ohio.

Vaccines available are: CoVid 19, Influenza, pneumonia, Tdap, RSV, Shingles, Hepatitis A, and Hepatitis B.

Please call Kelsey Riedlinger at 419-377-7549 or Rodger Jimison at 419-377-8757 to sign up and list which vaccines you'd like to receive.

Slovenia Update... From Disciple to Disciple-Maker

"I feel so much lighter now!" Aljaž shared after he and Žan prayed together. In that moment, Aljaž surrendered his life fully to Jesus for the first time and immediately felt the peace and presence of the Holy Spirit.

For several months, Aljaž and Žan, long-time high school friends, had been meeting weekly to read Scripture through Discovery Bible Study, while Jordan and I coached Žan along the way. When Aljaž gave his life to Christ, Žan was overjoyed. Almost immediately, Aljaž began to see God transforming his life. He felt conviction in areas where he needed to change and prayed with Žan for strength. As God worked in him, his excitement for the gospel grew, along with a deep desire to share it with others.

He began telling his friends about the difference Jesus was making in his life. Their curiosity opened the door for Aljaž to start not just one, but two Discovery Bible Study groups—one with his high school friends and another with some of his boxing club buddies. Once a week, they gather to read, discuss, and apply Scripture together. At the same time, he began reading the Bible with his girlfriend, who now also identifies as a believer!

"I can't wait until I have a disciple of my own," Aljaž told me. *"Just like I am to Žan, I want someone for myself."* We affirmed his vision and prayed together, echoing Paul's charge to Timothy: *"And what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well"* (2 Timothy 2:2). This is multiplication in action. And this is what it will take to see Bible Discovery Groups in all 212 municipalities of Slovenia—disciples making disciples, who in turn disciple others. **Pray** for Aljaž, that his faith would deepen, his groups would remain faithful to God's Word, and his influence would continue to multiply among his peers. **Pray** for Žan, that he would grow as a spiritual leader and disciple-maker, equipping others with patience, wisdom, and courage.

With love, Jay, Zina, Ari & Milo

The Retirement Village is accepting applications for residency. If you are aware of anyone that is interested in living in Elmore at the village, please feel free to have them contact me anytime.

Jeanette Buckantz, Manager

A BIBLE STUDY ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The Grace Council recently authorized a Long-Range Planning Committee to evaluate and enhance Grace's resources for the future. One result will be changes in how Grace's system of government is structured. To help Grace serve as a viable small church, a new Constitution and Bylaws are being prepared that simplify this structure. The effectiveness of that new structure will now depend upon how Grace's members respond to future calls to serve in leadership roles. That concern of course raises a question regarding what the Bible says about leadership. How does God want us to act when we are called to serve in leadership roles? This Bible study examines those questions. Gary Anderson



Deuteronomy 1:13, 15-1 (NIV)

¹³Choose some wise, understanding and respected men (and women) from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you." ...

¹⁵So I took the leading men (and women) of your tribes, wise and respected (people), and appointed them to have authority over you—as commanders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens and as tribal officials. ¹⁶And I charged your judges at that time, "Hear the disputes between your people and judge fairly, whether the case is between two Israelites or between an Israelite and a foreigner residing among you. ¹⁷Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of anyone, for judgment belongs to God. Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it." (The words in brackets were added by the author.)

Biblical Leadership Applies to Women and Men. In this scripture, God is speaking to the people through Moses. Moses and the Israelites had advanced to the territory of Moab, east of the Jordan, and they were nearing the time when they would enter the promised land. The first thing we need to get straight here is that leadership is not restricted to "men." Bible writing was always controlled by men, and they sought to protect their misguided dominance. However, by the time they got to the New Testament that exclusivity had begun to erode as Bible writers came to understand God's real intent. In Galatians 3:28, we read, "**There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female.**" In Romans 16:1-2, Paul, who struggled with his misogyny, wrote, "**I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church.**" The call to leadership applies to all people, women and men.

Leadership is Exercised through Ordered Structures. The scripture speaks of appointing leaders as commanders over thousands-hundreds-fifties-tens. The structure envisioned in the new Grace Constitution



This 19th century portrait of Deborah, a Judge and Prophet who was respected for her leadership of the Israelite people

reflects a similar structure: ELCA Church--Northwest Ohio Synod—Grace Congregation--Grace Council—Grace's small group ministry teams.



Lucas Cranach's painting of Jesus and the Adulteress whom Jewish leaders wanted to stone to death became a lesson in judging fairly when he invited **"someone without sin to cast the first stone."**

Leaders Must be Responsive and Fair. God's instructions for the Israelite leaders were straight-forward and simple, **"Hear the disputes between your people and judge fairly."** When there is an issue requiring action, God's instructions were to be responsive, **"hear the dispute!"** The other part of that instruction was equally simple, **"Judge fairly!"** God's calls for fairness, justice and righteousness took center stage in the prophecies of Old Testament Prophets who were active after the Israelites established themselves as a nation. Who, for example can forget Amos's call to **"let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream."**

Leaders Must be Impartial. God's instructions in this scripture are to **"hear both great and small alike."** It's too easy to spend time on issues of the rich and powerful. God wants us to treat the issues of the poor and down-trodden with just as much energy as the cases of the rich and powerful.

God is Ready to Help Leaders. This scripture closes with God's assurance that if your leadership challenge is too great, **"Do not be afraid of anyone."** He goes on to offer help, **"Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it."** This is where prayer comes in. A leader of God's people needs a healthy prayer relationship with God. When the leader's concerns are **"too hard,"** it's time to take them to God.

The Old and New Testaments have many scripture readings that teach us about the qualities of leadership, and especially about the leadership of God's people. Here we will quote just one more of the many, but in your personal Bible studies, looking for lessons about leadership is something worth doing.

1 Peter 5:1-4 (NIV)

¹To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ²Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; ³not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

The leadership of God's people is His call for many of us to **"be shepherds...as God wants (us) to be."** We are called to renounce **"dishonest gain,"** and deal with others while acting as their servants (**"not lording it over those entrusted to us"**). Above all, we are called to be **"examples to the flock."**

The members of Grace ELC-Elmore have expressed a strong desire to thrive as a church. For Grace to do that, and even to grow, this means many of us will be called to serve in future leadership positions. May our answers be like Samuel's, **"Speak, for your servant is listening."**



October 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>Your words are windows to your heart.</i> <i>...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh</i> <i>Matthew 12: 34b</i>					
5 Pentecost 17 9:30-Gifted Hands 9:45-Sunday School 10:30am - Worship	6	7 6:00pm- Choir	8 10:00am- Witness & Mission Board	9 7:00pm-Council	10 FOOD PANTRY 9:00 to Noon	11 Quilts & Kits to New Rochester
12 Pentecost 18 9:30-Gifted Hands 9:45-Sunday School 10:30am - Worship	13	14 6:00pm- Choir	15	16	17	18
19 Pentecost 19 9:30-Gifted Hands 9:45-Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Bethlehem Stuffed Cabbage Dinner	20	21 Newsletter Deadline 6:00pm- Choir	22	23	24	25
26 Pentecost 20 Reformation Sunday w/ potluck 9:30-Gifted Hands 9:45-Sunday School 10:30am - Worship	27	28 6:00pm- Choir	29	30	31 	