



THE PARISH REPORTER

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Jaci Tiell

Praising, Growing, Serving in Jesus' name

October 2024



Fall greetings,

As we enter the month of October, we are reminded of an important event in the history of the Christian faith - the Reformation. The Reformation, led by Martin Luther in the 16th century, sought to reform the Catholic Church and restore the teachings of the Bible. Luther's famous act of posting the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg sparked a movement that emphasized the principles of grace, faith, and scripture as the foundation of Christian belief.

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we are part of a rich tradition that values the Word of God, the sacraments, and the priesthood of all believers. The Reformation teachings of justification by faith, the priesthood of all believers, and the authority of scripture are central to our identity as Lutherans.

The month of October, is a great time to reflect on our Lutheran heritage and the significance of the Reformation. We can celebrate our commitment to the core beliefs and recommit ourselves to living out these principles in our daily lives. May we continue to grow in our understanding of God's grace, deepen our relationships with one another, and boldly live out our faith in the world.

Together, let us give thanks for the legacy of the Reformation and the ways it has shaped our identity as a people of God in this time and place. May we be inspired by the courage and conviction of Martin Luther and the reformers, as we seek to embody the love and grace of Christ in all that we do.

Blessings all as we celebrate the Reformation and embrace our Lutheran heritage this October.

"in Christ's love",

Pastor Jaci Tiell

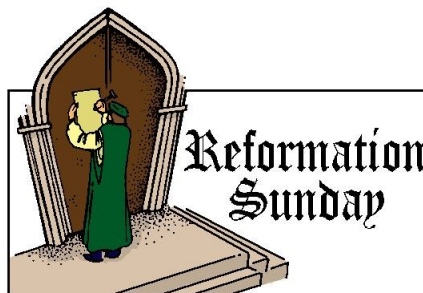


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The Values We Share...

- Worship weekly.
- Invite others to join us.
- Embrace one another.
- Keep on learning.
- Give regularly and generously.
- 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 6 Mark 10: 2-16
October 13 Mark 10: 17-31
October 20 Mark 10: 35-45
October 27 John 8: 31-36

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REMINDER Set Your Clocks back!

Sunday, November 3, 2024
Daylight Savings Time Ends.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Classes for the children continue each Sunday for PreSchool age, Elementary, and Teens. The Sunday School offerings for this year will be supporting Operation Oreo. Currently, there are three ways to actively help with fundraising, 1) purchase greeting cards, 2) enjoy Grace's Grape Jam with a donation, and 3) collect coins for Noisy offerings which will be held Nov 10 (Veterans Day), Feb 16 (Presidents Day), May 18 (Armed Services Day). Please remember to lift all the troops in your daily prayers.



Sunday, September 29th is Youth Sunday, a time for our younger members to more fully participate in the leading of worship. A second batch of fleece blankets, made by the youth were blessed that day as well. They have been donated to the Bethlehem Monthly Giveaway project to share with needy families in October. This project was envisioned by Adelyn Simkus. Thanks to the generous donation by Molly Avers last year, there is enough fleece to make more blankets for a third and final installment.

FROM the BOARD of WORSHIP... Worship in the sanctuary will resume on October 6, and we'll be moving worship items out of the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, October 5 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 12th from 8am –1pm. An agreed time on Friday would work. Contact Nancy Pries.

October Deacons & Lectors...

	Deacons	Lectors
10/6/2024	Jen & Mark Haar	Mark Haar
10/13/2024	Bruce King/Pr. Wietelmann	Jean Wietelmann
10/20/2024	Randy Jacobs/Gary Anderson	Mike Schlievert
10/27/2024	Mike & Mary Schlievert	Rachel Beeler



.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




Grace's October Food Pantry Item:

Peanut Butter—18 oz. jar
The Food Pantry will be open October 13th from 9:00 to Noon

“Leadership positions available!

We are in need of many people to fill vacant seats on Church Council. Most of the current council members have been serving for 8-10 years. Open positions include **president, vice president, financial secretary, and board chairs for congregational life, education, worship, property, and witness and mission.** Please prayerfully consider how you can prioritize the work of this congregation and fit a leadership role into your monthly schedule. Elections are held at our annual meeting which will be on **Sunday, November 3rd**, following 10:30 worship. Along with elections, our November congregational meeting will include presentation and approval of the budget for 2025. But in all honesty, without filling these leadership positions, we may need to start a serious discuss about the future of our Grace congregation."

Ladies Night Out:

 Join the ladies of Grace and Bethlehem for a night out. The plan is to meet on Sunday, October 6th at 5:30 pm at Los Cabos at 4505 Woodville Road, Northwood.

“Reformation Potluck Brunch! There will be a **potluck brunch on Sunday, October 27th**, following 10:30 worship. Be sure to sign up on the sheet in the narthex so we know how many places to set.



Volunteer Opportunity...The MercyMe & Crowder Concert is coming to Toledo on October 4th at 5pm in the Huntington Center. The organization is asking for anyone 18 and over to help pass out literature for Children International during intermission. To volunteer text to 205-719-7452 or email to: laurie@loopevents.org

WEEKLY OFFERING 2024

Week 1	\$11,833.00	Week 2	\$1,607.00
Week 3	\$2,050.00	Week 4	\$1,757.00
Week 5	\$2,465.00	Week 6	\$1,232.00
Week 7	\$1,502.00	Week 8	\$1,213.00
Week 9	\$4,134.00	Week 10	\$6,041.00
Week 11	\$1,107.00	Week 12	\$1,702.00
Week 13	\$2,309.00	Week 14	\$2,352.00
Week 15	\$1,670.00	Week 16	\$1,412.00
Week 17	\$1,337.00	Week 18	\$3,425.00
Week 19	\$1,762.00	Week 20	\$1,732.00
Week 21	\$1,312.00	Week 22	\$3,157.00
Week 23	\$827.00	Week 24	\$11,647.00
Week 25	\$1,627.00	Week 26	\$1,719.00
Week 27	\$1,885.00	Week 28	\$1,547.00
Week 29	\$1,232.00	Week 30	\$1,775.00
Week 31	\$3,105.00	Week 32	\$1,802.00
Week 33	\$1,497.00	Week 34	\$1,182.00
Week 35	\$2,162.00	Week 36	\$1,285.00
Week 37	\$992.00		
Total \$91,395.00			

Needed from Offering for 2024 \$146,429
Budget Gap (\$55,034.00)

Weekly Goal \$2,816 Avg. Week \$2,470



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...

Please keep all the military in your prayers, but specially these 4 women.:

- Sophia Lombardo – deployed – Middle East
- SPC Taylor Dively – training
- AB Marissa Mapes– training
- E2 Kassie Nissen - training

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

Continuous financial support of Op Oreo is really needed!

SAVE THE DATE:

Daniel R. Boyle will be presenting an organ recital on Sunday, October 27th at 3:00pm. The recital will be in the Solomon Lutheran Church sanctuary at 305 W. Main St. Woodville.

The freewill offering will benefit Solomon Concert Fund.



Attn Men of Grace...

Solomon Lutheran in Woodville has invited you to "Men's Breakfast" with Pastor Alan. Each breakfast is scheduled for the first Thursday of the month at 8:30am at Granny's Kitchen in Woodville.

Local Up Coming Opportunity...

.....**Saturday October 19 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. Proceeds going to charity.



STUFFED CABBAGE DINNERS. Grace's sister church, Bethlehem Lutheran is offering Stuffed Cabbage Dinners on Sunday October 13th. 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 in the Narthex where Grace members can order Stuffed Cabbage Dinners or Cabbage Rolls. Orders by Grace members will be delivered to Grace after worship on the 13^h of October.

The Stuffed Cabbage Dinners include 2 stuffed cabbages, mashed potatoes, bread & butter, and dessert. Prices are \$10.00 for adult meals and \$7.00 for children's meals. 2 Stuffed Cabbage Rolls may also be ordered separately for \$7.00 per order.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to order your dinners or cabbage rolls. Please make checks out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Back by Popular Demand is Grace's Grape Jam. After the vines were pruned back last fall and again this spring, the arbor in the courtyard has produced tasty grapes. Promoting good stewardship of the resources we have been given, Grace's Grape Jam is available with a donation to Operation Oreo. Recommended donation for a pint is \$5.00. The next picking, and jam, is likely to be in another few weeks. Thank you for supporting our Sunday School project.



Council Highlights... Council met September 12th. Mike Schlievert reported we finished the month of August with a loss of (\$1,500) bringing year to date loss to (\$9,500). A transfer of \$5,000. was made to checking account to keep that balance at the appropriate level. Spending was well in control, but giving suffered. HVAC was completed at a cost of about \$37,000. Parsonage work: interior painting is completed, carpet downstairs is installed, and landscaping is continuing. A complete copy of the council minutes is available in the church office.

*Today from the Synod
“Year of Rest
Calendar”*

*Take a walk, silently
pray for the places and
people you meet.*

Prayer Requests...

Thank you for your prayers for Lorens. He has completely recovered from his sickness, and is very thankful for your prayers. Join us in praising God for this, and pray with him for discernment as he is looking for a new job closer to home, and as he invites others to join him in learning and living the MyFriends lifestyle. He desires to have a team with him in his area seeking to share with those around them, so pray with us for this!

Pray for Ari, and his classmates and teachers as he starts a new year of preschool. He is so excited to be back, so pray for patience and understanding, and for opportunities for us to connect with more families there.



Slovenia Update...New Life in Ljutomer!

Žan has a friend and former classmate, named Aljaž, who identified as a Christian, but from the outside, it seemed like he was not living a life fully surrendered to God. He was curious and open toward God, but did not understand what it meant to truly walk with Him. We had been praying with Žan for a while now for his friend, for opportunities for the two of them to read the Word together, and for God to soften his heart. And this month, while the two of them were hanging out, Aljaž started to ask Žan some questions about salvation.

Žan stopped and prayed, and he said he felt the Holy Spirit leading him to a few key verses in the Gospels that they should read together. As they read and discussed them, it became clear to Aljaž that he had not yet fully surrendered to God, and received Jesus' atoning sacrifice. So there in the park in their hometown of Ljutomer, Aljaž prayed just that. Afterwards Žan asked him how he felt, and he said **"I just feel so much lighter now!"** Afterwards, they prayed together and Aljaž thanked Žan. He told him he felt a sense of security in Jesus and in his salvation that he had never felt before. That was really exciting to him, and the two of them celebrated and thanked God.



As we are seeking to reach the entire country of Slovenia for Christ, we need to make disciples who make disciples. Žan is now the first of what will, Lord willing, be many first-generation disciples who make a second-generation, who make a third and so on! Seeing a second-generation is huge, and such an exciting moment in our ministry and movement.

When Žan and I were talking about this after, he told me about how nervous he had felt, but that he knew God was with him and that the Holy Spirit was leading him. He was thankful for the things we had talked about, and the boldness and confidence he had gained through the MyFriends training. Now, the two of them will seek to meet weekly to read the Bible together, and take steps of obedience to God while seeking to connect with more of the lost around them. Join us in praying for Aljaž! Praise God for the work He has done in his heart. Pray that God would protect him from any lies and attacks from the enemy that may come. Pray that he would grow in faith and maturity, and finally pray that God would bring more people to them, that they could form a community of people seeking Jesus together in Ljutomer!

With Love, *Jay & Zina*

A BIBLE STUDY ABOUT MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS

About this Month's Bible Study. The topic for this month's Bible Study is Mary the mother of Jesus. Mary is revered by Christians all over the world as the "Virgin Mary." Yet for someone who is so well-known, the Bible does not provide a lot of biographical information about her. This Bible Study surveys those references as we seek to learn more about this remarkable woman. **Gary Anderson**



INTRODUCTION

Every Sunday in our worship services, we confess through the **Apostles' Creed** that "I believe in Jesus Christ, (God's) only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary." Whether in this creed, or the **Nicene Creed**, we affirm our belief that Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God, through God's actions as the Holy Spirit.

We believe that this woman named Mary was the mother of Jesus, indeed, the Mother of God ("**Theotokos**"). In human history, Mary has become what a recent **National Geographic** publication called, the "**World's Most Powerful Woman.**" Christians all over the world recognize the Virgin Mary as a revered saint, a messenger of God, and an intercessor with God. Mary has inspired great works of art and architecture (Michelangelo's "Pieta", Notre Dame Cathedral, etc.), as well as poetry, liturgy, and music. Mary is the spiritual confidante of billions of people.

Isaiah 7:14 -- A Virgin's Role Was Foreseen.

¹⁴Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (God with us).

Old Testament prophecy foresaw the role that a "**young woman**" (often translated as "**virgin**"), to be chosen by God, would play in the restoration of the Davidic monarchy. The peoples' expectations of the role this woman would play in the coming of the Messiah influenced how later Christians would see Mary, the mother of Jesus as a young woman or "**virgin.**"

Luke 1:27b-28 -- God Chose Mary to Bear His Son.

²⁶God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.

The Gospels of Luke and Matthew link a "**virgin**" named Mary with the birth of God's son. Luke's account offers a bit of biographical data about Mary. God sent his angel Gabriel to the backwater Galilean village of Nazareth to deliver the message about her being chosen to bear His Son. This suggests that Mary was of humble origin, but even that is an assumption. Luke introduced Joseph as her husband-to-be. Luke's presentation of Mary continues with "**Mary's Song**" (*The Magnificat*, v. 1:46-55). The Magnificat, however, is a very sophisticated social-political statement that says Luke's Mary was intimately familiar with Jewish teachings about the God "**Jahweh**" who has done "**great things,**" who will "**bring down rulers from their thrones,**" and "**lift up the humble.**"



This portrait showing Mary lamenting her crucified son is in the Coptic Museum in Cairo. It is representative of the countless ways artists all over the world have portrayed Mary

Matthew 1:18 – Matthew Introduced Mary as a Young Maiden

¹⁸*This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew presented Mary as an obviously young woman who has just reached the age when she can marry and bear children. That led to the conclusion that Mary was only 14, 15 or 16 years old when Jesus was born. Joseph's concern for dealing properly with Mary's unexpected pregnancy indicates that both were members of faithful Jewish families who followed the law.

John 2:1-3 – Mary Became an Intercessor with Jesus

¹*On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²*and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.* ³*When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him,* "They have no more wine."*

Jesus' act of turning water into wine during the wedding at Cana occurs at the beginning of his Galilean ministry. It is regarded as his first miracle. Mary went with Jesus to the wedding, and when the guests had consumed all the wine, Mary was the one who interceded with Jesus to get him to resolve this crisis. Since then, millions have asked Mary to intercede with Jesus to resolve their crises.

Luke 8:19-21 – Following Jesus Was Not Easy

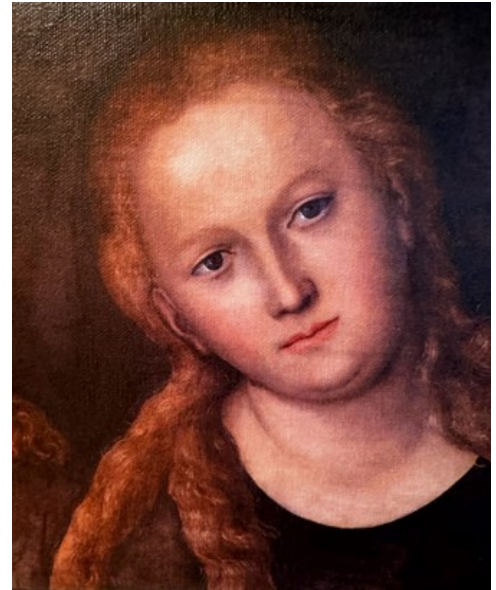
¹⁹*Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd.* ²⁰*Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you."* ²¹*He replied, "**My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice.**"*

Mary is mentioned occasionally in the Gospel stories about Jesus' ministry. This account, which appears in Matthew, Mark and Luke, tells us Mary and Jesus' brothers (If Mary had other children, she could not have been a "perpetual virgin.") followed him throughout his ministry. It also says that with Jesus' huge following, keeping up with him was not easy, however, Mary and Jesus' brothers surely accepted his teaching that "**all who put God's word into practice are his mother and brothers.**"

John 19:25-27 – Mary Remained Faithful to Jesus Until the End

²⁵*Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.* ²⁶*When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son,"* ²⁷*and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.*

Mary was one of four of Jesus' disciples who were present at the crucifixion. In this poignant scene, Jesus asked his "**beloved disciple**" John and his mother Mary to care for each other after his ascension and to carry on his ministry on earth through the work of the Christian church that would rise after his death and resurrection.



This portrait of Mary was used by the Lucas Cranach workshop in Wittenberg (early 1500s) as a model for how Mary was portrayed in their many paintings that included her.



October 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00pm- Choir	2	3	4	5
6 9:00am - Property Board 9:30am-Sunday School 10:30am - Worship in the Sanctuary Temple Talk- Veterans Matter	7	8 6:00pm- Choir	9 10:00am- Witness & Mission Board	10 7:00pm-Council	11 FOOD PANTRY 9:00 to Noon	12 Quilts & Kits to New Rochester
13 9:30am-Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Bethlehem Stuffed Cabbage Dinner	14	15 6:00pm- Choir	16	17	18	19
20 9:30am-Sunday School 10:30am - Worship	21	22 Newsletter Deadline 6:00pm- Choir	23	24	25	26
27 Reformation Sunday w/ potluck 9:30am-Sunday School 10:30am - Worship SAM Clyde Bame	28	29 6:00pm- Choir	30	31 