



# Grace Notes

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH AT  
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, CASTALIA, OH

## DECEMBER 2025



### CHRISTMAS

Oh, what a lovely time of year. It is colder, and darker, and busier, and cards need written, shopping needs done, (Oh the list of things to buy), cookies need baked, presents need wrapped, decorations need put up.....

But, what happens if all that does not get done? Children will be upset if they do not get the presents they want, but the rest of the list does not really matter.

What does matter is that Jesus Christ was born as a baby. He was born in human form. He grew up like us. He probably was a happy baby and played and laughed just like other children. But his life was different. He had a different purpose than us.

Jesus lived his life and died on the cross so that we may live. We rejoice in his life and so we celebrate Christmas with all the gifts, and cooking, and baking, and wrapping, and shopping. It is all part of Christmas, but we celebrate all the busyness because Jesus was born and died for us.

So, as you worry about getting everything done, remember that Jesus loves you and will not be upset if all the cookies do not get baked. Relax in Jesus' love, enjoy your family and friends, and thank Jesus for coming into our lives and loving us. We are saved by grace.

Merry Christmas!  
Minister Beth

## MINISTRY UPDATES

**COMMUNITY MEAL** - Thank you to all who deboned the chickens, donated desserts, prepared the salad, baked the biscuits, and served our families. We provided meals for 180 who came through the drive-thru, and had a few leftovers that were taken to Crossroads. It was nice to have some new volunteers from the community to help too. Minister Beth is using this opportunity to reach out and pray for all who requested support as they come to pick up their meals. "Thanksgiving" is certainly aptly put. Our meal in December will include Scalloped Potatoes with Ham, Applesauce made by our own church members on Gods Work Our Hands Sunday, Mixed Vegetables, and a Decorated Cookie with pudding. Junior High students in the classes of Christine Smith will be doing the decorating (and probably some eating too!)

**GRACE'S TABLE FOOD PANTRY** - Our food pantry routinely provides boxes of food items, paper items and cleaning supplies to 40-55 families monthly, with an average of 194 people. In November we served 62 families. Thank you for your donations to this important ministry! It takes everyone to make it a successful ministry! Donations and helpers are always needed to keep the pantry operating. Come join us!

**SEWING MINISTRY** - The volunteers in the Sewing Ministry have taken a break after a very busy summer and fall. Ten of our quilts were delivered to the Sandusky warming Center just this week. Any donations of blankets, old sheets, and fabric will be put to good use once we start up again the first and third Wednesday of January-April from 9-11.

**PROJECT SHARE** - From November 18th to December 18th, the Fellowship Hall will be converted into an amazing, yet seemingly crazy, collection of clothing and personal items, and toys waiting to be assigned to Project Share families. All of things you will see have been donated in some way by our community. Since this has major impact on several facets of our congregation, please contact Jean Smith, 419-901-0816, if you have questions or concerns. Should you care to help, contact Suzie Berger at 419-656-1605. The Project Share Team and other community volunteers work weeknights from 5-8 and Saturdays from 8-11:30. Please pray for our workers and our families that all done is pleasing in God's sight.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - It has been a joy to have Josh and Angela Pocock become involved in our Christian Education Program in addition to Rick Henry, Jean Smith, and volunteer parents. The children in grades Preschool-4th most recently have been discussing the importance of families to God. Not only have they drawn out their own family trees, but have also talked about the family tree of Jesus, leading up to Advent. The Pre-Catechism class has continued their studies about various stories and have enjoyed combining listening with doing various hands-on projects that reinforce each lesson. Mr. Henry continues to guide his students through the catechism and Minister Beth is talking with post-catechism students about what it means to be a Lutheran.



## HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

BETTY MEGGITT:  
TODD MILLER:  
ALICE LEHMAN:  
BETTY BOHN:

The Commons of Providence, 5000 Providence Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870  
Providence Care Center, 2025 Hayes Avenue, Sandusky, OH 44870  
Harborview Apartments, 115 Franklin Street, Apt. 401, Sandusky, OH 44870  
The Commons of Providence, 5000 Providence Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870

*Please note: This list is comprised of individuals who have authorized their residence information to be published. If you are a member of Grace and would like to be placed on the homebound list, please contact Beth Kieffer in the office at 419-684-5059.*

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2025

Operating Offerings: \$ 30,420.00  
Operating Expenses: \$ 9,466.42  
Operating Fund Balance: \$105,922.54  
Other Designated Giving: \$ 4,097.00

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Full copies of the monthly Financial Report are available in the Church Office**

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP  
WILL BEGIN AT 7:30PM on  
December 24, 2025



### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting will be held on December 7, 2025 immediately following worship to discuss the purchase and installation of a new sound system.

Circle 5 will be have a Cookie Walk on December 6 beginning at 9AM. Please put this on your calendar! Cookies will be sold by weight and all proceeds will go to Grace's Table. Any homemade cookies will be accepted! Please remember this when you begin your holiday baking!




**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Be sure to call or email your information for the weekly bulletin announcements to Brenda in the church office at BMacdonald@gracecastalia.org by **9AM on Thursday** at the latest. **Newsletter** announcements are due no later than the 20th of the month.

To have your prayer request placed on the Grace Prayer Chain, **please contact Lynne Yetter at 419-603-6759.**





# DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th
<i>Nov. 30</i> WORSHIP - 9AM 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday School and Catechism - 10:15am	1 Dartball at Huron - 7:30pm	2 Morning Prayer 6:15AM	3 Choir - 7PM	4 Morning Prayer 6:15AM
7 WORSHIP - 9AM 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday School and Catechism - 10:15am	8 Dartball at Zion - 7:30pm	9 Morning Prayer - 6:15AM Circle 3 - 1:30PM	10 Community Meal 5-6PM Choir - 7PM	11 Morning Prayer 6:15AM
14 WORSHIP - 9AM 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday School and Catechism - 10:15am	15 Dartball at Faith - 7:30pm	16 Morning Prayer 6:15AM Church Council - 7PM	17 Choir - 7PM	18 Morning Prayer 6:15AM
21 WORSHIP - 9AM 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday School Christmas Program during Worship	22 Dartball at Huron - 7:30pm	23 Morning Prayer 6:15AM	24 <i>Christmas Eve Worship</i> <i>At 7:30PM</i> 	25 Morning Prayer 6:15AM
28 WORSHIP - 9AM Sunday School and Catechism - 10:15am	29 Dartball at Huron - 7:30pm	30 Morning Prayer 6:15AM	31 Choir - 7PM	1 Morning Prayer 6:15AM


## DECEMBER READERS

- 7. Brenda Ried
- 14. Rhonda Rice
- 21. Rhonda Rice
- 24. Rod Smith
- 28. Jean Smith

## DECEMBER ASSISTING MINISTERS

- 7. Jane Ann Cummings
- 14. Rhonda Rice
- 21. Rhonda Rice
- 24. Gary Borchardt
- 28. Jane Ann Cummings

# R 2025

T	F	S
4 Morning Prayer 6:15AM	5	6 Cookie Walk at 9:00AM 
11 Morning Prayer 6:15AM	12	13
18 Morning Prayer-6:15AM	19	20 Food Pantry 9-10:00AM
25 Morning Prayer-6:15AM	26	27

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1. Gunner Kuns
4. Lincoln Churchill
7. George Wiswell
9. Tina France, Suzi Kaufman
10. Carolyn Brown
14. Barb Rohrbacher
18. Becky Sessler
23. Larry Krogh
24. Joe Greer, Rich Henry, Heather Kehres
25. Mary Carol Kuns
26. RaeAnne Kehres
27. Colton Francis
28. Gary Borchardt
30. Debbie Laird



## DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

*December 10: Cheryl & Tracy Troxel*  
*December 27: Chris & Tim Niemeyer*  
*December 30: Bev & Dave Mix*

*Congratulations  
on your  
Wedding  
Anniversary!*

## DECEMBER USHERS

- . Rieds
4. Jean Smith & Judy Estep
1. Jean Smith & Judy Estep
4. Jean Smith & Judy Estep
8. Jean Smith & Judy Estep

## DECEMBER FLOWERS

7. Tina France
14. OPEN
21. Rieds
24. Barb & Jeff Rohrbacher
28. OPEN

In Attendance: Minister Beth Kieffer, Gary Borchardt, Dave Bodi, Jordan Kuns, Joe Greer, Joan Lander, Becky Henry, Jim Floro, Larry Krogh. The meeting was called to order by President Gary Borchardt.

The Mission Statement was recited.

Minister Beth Kieffer's devotion was taken from Isaiah 55:3. It was read from 3 different Bible versions. First reading was the 1<sup>st</sup> word that pops out which was "come to me". Second reading was the dialog which was "everlasting covenant". Third reading was think about what GOD says to you, which was "listen and receive blessings". This process is called Lectio Divina.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. There was a correction under Minister Beth's report. The word Fresh was written as Fres. Dave Bodi moved to accept the minutes, Jordan Kuns seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as corrected.

### **Financial Report:**

The financial report was highlighted by Treasurer, Jordan Kuns.

General offerings for the month were \$15,231.00.

Permanent Improvement offerings totaled \$1,615.00.

Other giving-offering totaled \$295.00.

Operating surplus increased by \$5,052.00.

Total operating expenses for the month totaled \$13,500.00.

Jordan Kuns reported a new 11 month CD was issued for \$25,000.00, at a rate of 3.44% and end in August of 2026. This CD is staggered with the other \$30,000.00 CD.

Joan Lander moved to accept the financial report, and Larry Krogh seconded the motion. Report was approved.

### **Minister's Report:**

Minister Beth Kieffer provided a report.

During the month of September Minister Beth said she needed another September calendar for her September calendar. She had 4 Home and 4 Hospital visits. Blessing of the Back packs, and God's Work Our Hands. Attended a Lutheran-Catholic dialog meeting, and a Synod Council meeting.

Had her meeting with Pastor Chris for SAMs, and attended a SAMs meeting in Bowling Green, OH.

### **MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:**

2.

#### **Stewardship & Finance:**

Joe Greer had no report.

#### **Worship:**

Barb Rohrbacher reported the following:

10/05/25 Blessing of the Quilts. There were 306 quilts made with love.

10/12/25 Blessing of the Badges. Only 1 law enforcement attended, but  
Over 50 congregational members stayed for breakfast and fellowship.

Thanks to all who helped, especially the Sunday School and Jean Smith.

10/26/25 Reformation Sunday, Minister Beth reminded everyone to wear  
Red / orange / gold

11/02/25 All Saints Sunday, Worship Committee will set up candles if  
Denny Loroff is unable to do.

11/23/25 CHRISTmas / Advent decorating after worship service.

12/24/25 Christmas Eve service @ 7:30PM / Worship Committee to prepare  
candles for candle-light service.

#### **Christian Education:**

Becky Henry reported:

Sunday School did well helping at the breakfast for Blessing of the Badges.

Attendance is low. There is 1 student in catechism, and 1 to 3 students in pre-catechism class.

Becky stated they are hoping after Fall sports are over attendance will increase. Catechism is studying the 10 Commandments. Jean Smith contacted Minister Beth and Becky Henry in regards to the Sunday School CHRISTmas program. Since Sunday School doesn't have a lot of students in attendance, she would like to adapt a book "Callies Gift" for the CHRISTmas program which would be on December 21, 2025 during worship in lieu of the sermon.

**Outreach & Social Ministry:**

Joan Lander reported:

Community Meal served 175 meals at a cost of \$532.00, with \$552.00 in donations. Next Community Meal is scheduled for 11/12/25.

Pantry distributed to 51 families.

There were 306 quilts made with love

(3 to Senior Center / 10 to Warming Center / 293 to Lutheran World Relief)

**Property:**

3.

Larry Krogh reported that last winter there were issues with the East and West units. The West unit was used a lot, for it was the main unit used. The East unit kicked on when needed (low temperatures, storms, etc.). Repair on the West unit comes in at a cost of \$2,780.00.

He also stated in the boiler room the motor and pump need service / replaced. Since the pump was having issues and not working properly, it caused the motor to seize up. A new motor would cost \$3,610.00, but to replace the motor and the pump together costs less than \$5,000.00. Both costs include labor and service call. Replacing just one at a time would cost more because of a 2<sup>nd</sup> service call and labor. It is more cost effective to replace the motor and pump at one time. No motion is needed to move forward to repair the West unit, and purchase a new motor & pump to be installed, for they are under the money cap.

Jim Floro reported the heating registers were taken apart and cleaned. He also reported Matt Yetter re-lamped 4 lights in the back of the church. The walls will not need to be painted, just washed down.

Jim Floro reported on the elevator cables. On 6/30/25, \$3,200.00 was paid to replace the elevator cables. After contacting the company several times, the company finally came out. They went to replace the cables, and the wrong cables were ordered. They will expedite the cables and installation.

Jim also stated he has contacted 3 painters for quotes but have not received any call backs. He also contacted Sound Solutions for the sound system with no return calls to date.

Dave Bodi reported on the snow plowing. Ground Control has been contacted, but no response to date. He also reported on the back (previous front doors) will be locked during the winter months, for the steps are very icy. The side door will remain opened during the winter months.

**Old Business:**

Congregational meeting scheduled 11/2/25 after the worship service.

Each Committee needs to have a report for the meeting, and if a written report needs to be sent to Minister Beth or office by Monday 10/27/25.

SAM evaluation report has been completed and sent to the Synod.

**New Business:**

4.

Project Share donated \$1,500.00 to Grace Lutheran for use of the rooms and fellowship hall, but after discussion, Council felt the monies donated to GLC should be donated back to the community.

Barb Rohrbacher suggested splitting the donation 2 or 3 ways.

Minister Beth suggested donating to the Ottawa County Advocacy, and

Barb Rohrbacher suggested Lutheran World Relief.

Jordan Kuns moved to donated \$750.00 each to Ottawa County Advocacy and \$750.00 to Lutheran World Relief. Minister Beth Kieffer seconded the motion, motion accepted.

Joan Lander asked Council for Project Share for them to use the Fellowship hall starting on 11/18/25 through mid-December (will be out before December pantry date). Joan Lander moved, Minister Beth seconded, motion accepted.

Security discussion was held due to recent nationwide events. Further discussions will be held in the future.

**Correspondence:** none

**Adjournment:**

Larry Krogh moved to adjourn, seconded by Dave Bodi. Meeting adjourned and followed by Holy Communion and the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting to be held on November 18, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barb Rohrbacher for Rhonda Rice

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 S. Washington Street  
Castalia, OH 44824

## GRACE GROWS DISCIPLES.

Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we **WORSHIP** the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, **WITNESS** to God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ, **WELCOME** all into our community of faith.

Our website address: [www.GraceCastalia.org](http://www.GraceCastalia.org)

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS: [BMacDonald@gracecastalia.org](mailto:BMacDonald@gracecastalia.org)

PHONE: 419-684-5059