

*"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."*

John 1:14

Grace & Truth

Grace Lutheran Church, Fremont, OH

January, 2010





This time of year, much of our world is fixated on Christmas presents. But I'd like you to think about that phrase in a different way. If you heard it on the radio, you might notice that the phrase could be spelled out as "Christmas presence". It sounds the same! And I want you to remember that Christmas presence is just as much a part of our celebration as Christmas presents.

The prophet Isaiah predicted that a young woman would conceive and bear a child, and call his name "Emmanuel". Emmanuel means "God is with us", i.e., God is present with us. That prediction was fulfilled with the birth of Jesus. Jesus, the "word made flesh", is the presence of God in our world. God is with us!

Just for comparison purposes, think how this differs from the presence of Santa. According to legend, Santa shows up for one night, briefly, maybe pausing long enough to eat the cookies you left (although I know now that it's Grandpa who eats those cookies!). But Jesus comes into this world on Christmas, and he stays. He moves in. He unpacks his bags. Jesus is here for the long haul.

This presence of Christmas stays in our lives. Yes, Jesus is present with us on Christmas Day, but also for the rest of the year! Jesus is with us on our good days, and on our bad ones. Jesus is with us in our joys and our sorrows. Jesus is with us in life, and Jesus is with us in death.

What good news this is! We know that God loves us so much, that he sent his only son – his own flesh! – into our world to live with us, to be "present" with us.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Paul



CHAPEL CHOIR IN CONCERT
at Grace, February 5

The Chapel Choir of Capital University, one of the best college choirs in the United States today, will present a concert at Grace Lutheran Church on Friday evening, February 5, at 7:30 p.m. The choir has just completed their annual Christmas Festival, with four sold-out concerts and a waiting list of 500. Don't miss this special event, the choir's first appearance in Fremont since 2001.

Capital University, located in Bexley, Ohio, is one of our Lutheran colleges. Over the years, quite a number of students from Grace have attended Capital.

We are seeking patrons for this concert. Patrons who contribute \$50 (checks made payable to Grace Lutheran Church) will have their names printed on a special insert in the concert program. Contact the church office if you'd like to be a patron. Volunteers will also be needed to host choir members in their homes on that Friday night. Details on how to sign up to host will be available later.



SHARE
and
CARE

Grace Lutheran Church will
be working at Share and Care
Thursdays in January from
11:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
Volunteers are needed; just show
up and we will put you to work!

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund

As of November 30, 2009:

Year to date expense budget:	\$ 415,539.86
Year to date actual expenses:	<u>\$ 407,027.08</u>
	\$ (8,512.78) (Underbudget)

The above numbers show that we are making every effort to be financially responsible in our decision making to stay within our budget. Spending is 2% below what we expected our expenses would be year-to-date. As shown below, giving is down 3% compared to last year. Going forward, we ask for your continued support as we do God's work.

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Year to date receipts:	\$ 357,188.96	\$ 368,316.23
Budgeted Transfer from Contingency Reserve	\$ 22,163.50	
Year to date actual expenses:	<u>\$ 407,027.08</u>	<u>\$ 383,762.50</u>
Receipts less expenses:	\$ (27,674.62) Shortfall	\$ (15,446.27) Shortfall

As the Boiler Project is wrapping up, the report format has changed to show project status.

Boiler Fund Project Update

Beginning Balance 1/1/08	\$ 172,279.52	
Receipts 2008	\$ 139,494.90	
Receipts YTD 2009	<u>\$ 262,136.38</u>	
Total Receipts to Boiler Fund		\$ 573,910.80
Expenditures To Date	<u>\$ 550,398.05</u>	
Balance in Boiler Account		\$ 23,512.75
Balance in Endowment Capital Campaign Account		<u>34,971.92</u>
Total Boiler/Capital Campaign Funds Available		\$ 58,484.67
Estimated Remaining Boiler Project Expenses		<u>24,500.00</u>
Projected Balance Remaining		\$ 33,984.67
Capital Campaign Pledges Outstanding		<u>\$ 119,106.00</u>
Funding available for Future Capital Projects		<u><u>\$ 153,090.67</u></u>

Respectfully submitted,
 Susan Laeng
 Financial Administrator



CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

The following people were received as new members on December 13, 2009:

Transfers:

*Sarah Babione from Zion Lutheran, Sandusky
Jodi Kusmer from St. John Lutheran, Fremont*

Affirmation of Faith:

*Robert & Sue Howard
Alicia Johnson
Mike McGilton
Jeremy & Emili Mick & daughter Hannah Nelson
Mark & Ronelle Prenzlin
Tim Swartz*

Baptism:

Amber Pump

- The Property Committee will host an Open House in the Boiler Room area after worship services the weekend of January 9/10, 2010. All are welcome to stop by and see the new boiler system.
- An Open Budget Hearing will be held on Monday, January 4, at 7pm in the Lounge. All Grace members are invited to attend.
- Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 31, at 11:20 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
- Outstanding pledges/donations for the Boiler Fund will now be designated to the Assessability Fund.

A very gracious “Thank You” goes out to all of our dedicated volunteers who helped keep up the church grounds and building this past summer by helping with yard work, caring for the flowers, trimming the bushes, washing windows - your time and efforts are sincerely appreciated!



Library News!

What was it really like to live in the New Testament era?

The Silas Diary by Gene Edwards is your invitation to join Silas, Paul, and their companions on a journey fraught with danger and adventure -- a journey that changed the history of the world. Learn with the first-century Christians what Freedom in Christ really means. You'll find yourself shipwrecked in the cold Mediterranean Sea, fighting for life with Paul and his friends as they grab for something to hold on to in the icy, stormy water. You'll discover what it's like to ford a river in a hailstorm only to be swept ashore far from shelter or friends.

Abraham by Bruce Feiler, tells the powerful story of one man's search for the shared ancestor of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Traveling through war zones, braving violence at religious sites, and seeking out faith leaders, he uncovers the role that Abraham plays for half the world's believers.

Both of these are great reads for readers of the Bible in 90 Days, and for Pastor Paul's Sunday school class!



The annual Red Cross Blood Drive, will be held here at Grace on Saturday, December 19, from 9am until 2pm in the Dining Room.



Don't forget...
Your year-end donations must be turned into the church office by noon on Tuesday, December 29 to be credited for 2009.



Did you know that the church provides hearing impaired aids for our services? We have two implements that pick up the sound system making it easier to hear the service. The Worship Committee would like to know if additional aids are needed. If you are in need of this aid, it would be greatly appreciated if you would call the church office and let them know you would use this service.



2010 Offering Envelopes are now available and can be picked up in the back of the Sanctuary.

Thank You's

We would like to thank Pastor Paul for officiating at the November funeral of our Mother, a long-time member of the congregation. Our thanks also go to James Gardner for playing the organ and the Women of Grace Church for preparing and serving the luncheon. Special thanks to Pastor Avers for his home visits and to everyone for their visits, cards, memorials, and prayers.

The family of Helen R. Kerns

* * * * *

Prayer Shawl Ministry ~

Your kind and thoughtful expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Charlotte Amor and family

* * * * *

Pastor Gruetter and friends,

I would like to thank the pastors for their visits while I was in the hospital and in Bethesda Care Center. Also, all the prayers that were said for me. The beautiful cards I received from everyone - how I appreciated them! We certainly enjoyed the chicken soup that was delivered to us by Mr. Aspacher. It was very good. God Bless everyone that remembered me.

Bless you all,

Joan Ginnever

* * * * *

Thank you to the chefs who made the delicious chicken soup for the soul. It warmed the body and the spirit. Thank you to the knitters and the prayer shawl ministry. What a comfort they bring. Also, thank you too, for Lyle Smith and his comforting visit.

Terry & Sharon Radsick



Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24

(Candlelight at all Christmas Eve services)

5:00 p.m.

Featuring children's choirs

Pre-service children's recital (approx. 4:30 p.m.)

7:30 p.m.

Holy Communion

11:00 p.m.

Features brass, bells, organ, harp, choir

Pre-service Christmas recital begins at 10:15 p.m.

"Christmas Carol Sing"

December 26 - 27

At all weekend worship services.



REMINDER:

If you are heading to a warmer climate for the winter months, don't forget to let the church office know your "Winter" address. We want to be able to keep you updated on Grace happenings!

January Birthdays



January 1	Mary Gibson	Countryside Cont. Care Center 1865 Countryside Dr.
January 2	Marv Meyer	1938 Tiffin Rd.
January 3	Patrick O'Brien	1715 S. Buchanan St.
January 5	Avonelle Lotycz	Elmwood of Fremont 1545 Fangboner Rd.
January 7	Carl Cooley	1840 Morrison St.
January 9	Loretta Sieberg	429 Morrison St.
January 9	Evelyn White	609 Whittlesey St.
January 10	Lois Oberst	2104 Elm Dr.
January 12	Irv Klohn	1324 McPherson Blvd.
January 15	Louise Craig	3129 S. Co. Rd. 198
January 15	Helen Zilles	131 Berkshire Dr.
January 17	Ron Schmitz	2999 N. St. Rte. 19
January 21	Margaret Minich	805 Fourth St. North St. James, MN 56081
January 22	Sharon Kinkaid	209 E. Co. Rd. 73
January 23	Tillie Hetrick	Valley View Health Care Ctr. 825 June St
January 24	Peggy Zeigler	133 Austin St.
January 28	Wayne Druckenmiller	740 Co. Rd. 212, Lot 71
January 28	Marian Mach	1620 Williams Dr.
January 28	William Sherick	1407 Rosewood
January 29	Ruth Gray	256 E. Bayview Dr. Port Clinton, OH 43452



Altar Guild for January:
Sharon Zilles, Amy Lamson, Sandra Weickert



DISCHARGED

Lois Oberst
Vicki Shiets and baby boy, Camdyn

New Baby!



*Camdyn Gerald Shiets, December 2, 2009
son of Larry and Vicki*



*Vivian Mae Gibbs, November 29, 2009
daughter of Robert and Alexis*

*Emmersyn Leann Pump, December 13, 2009
daughter of Charlie and Amber*



Ray Linder



**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20.**

**THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE
ASSEMBLED ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 28.**

Grace Lutheran Church
705 West State Street
Fremont, OH 43420

Return Service Requested

**Non-Profit
Paid
Fremont, OH
Permit #133**

Worship Services:

Saturday 5:00pm - Traditional Worship
Sunday 7:45am - Liturgical Worship
9:00am - Christian Education
10:00am - Celebration Worship/Holy Communion

Office Hours – 8:30am-4:30pm, M-F

E-mail: gracefremont@yahoo.com

Web page: www.gracefremont.org

Paul Gruetter, Senior Pastor

paulgruetter@yahoo.com

James Avers, Visitation Pastor

pastorjim777@sbcglobal.net

Maureen Pump, Director of Ministries

MaureenPump@yahoo.com

Theresa Long, Youth Director

Theresa_glyd@yahoo.com

Linda Biller, Office Administrator

billerlinda@yahoo.com

Sue Laeng, Financial Administrator

gracefremont@yahoo.com

Tricia McElfresh, Director, Noah's Ark Preschool

noahs_ark_fremont@yahoo.com

SUNDAY

MONDAY





TUESDAY

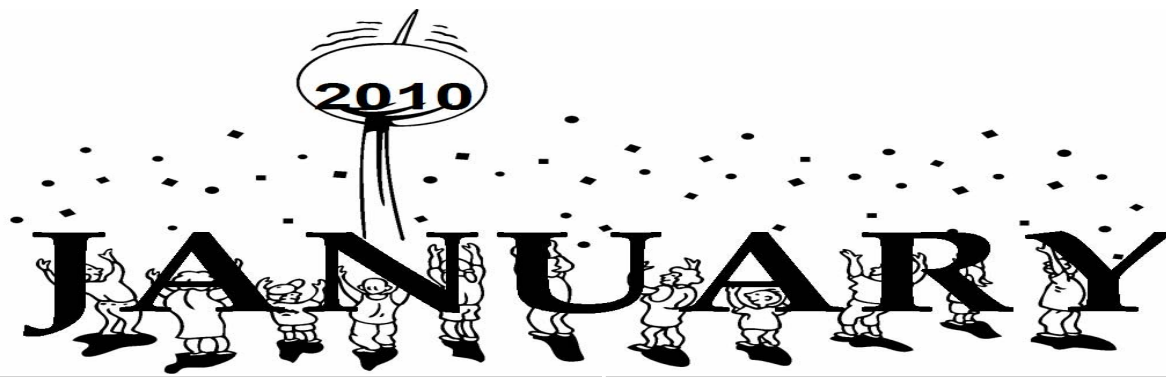
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>3</p> <p>7:45 - Worship 9:00 - Christian Education 10:00 - Celebration Worship/ Holy Communion 6-8 - The Gathering 8:00 - DAA</p>	<p>4</p> <p>2:00 - Beth Moore Bible Study 7:00 - Open Budget Hearing Lounge 7:00 - Boy/Cub Scouts</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:00 - Spirit Meal 6:15 - Children's Choirs 6:30 - Prayer & Praise 7:15 - Small Groups 7:30 - Confirmation 7:30 - Bells 8:00 - R Life Meeting 8:30 - Praise Team</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>11:00 - Soup Kitchen 6:30 - Thursday Night Bible Study</p>	<p>1</p> <p><i>Happy New Year!</i></p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>8</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:00 - Worship</p> <hr/> <p>9</p> <p>5:00 - Worship/Holy Communion Boiler Room Open House</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Boiler Room Open House 7:45 - Worship/Holy Communion 8:55 - Senior Choir Practice 9:00 - Christian Education 10:00 - Celebration Worship/ Holy Communion 6-7:30 - Encounter 8:00 - DAA</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 - Project Day 9:30 - MOPS 2:00 - Beth Moore Bible Study 7:00 - Boy/Cub Scouts 7:00 - Church Council Devotions 7:15 - Standing Committees 7:30 - Dartball @ Home 8:15 - Church Council</p>	<p>12</p> <p>2:30 - Daughter's Circle - Lounge</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:00 - Spirit Meal 6:15 - Children's Choirs 6:30 - Prayer & Praise 7:15 - Small Groups 7:30 - Confirmation 7:30 - Bells 8:00 - R Life Meeting 8:30 - Praise Team</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:00 - Soup Kitchen 6:30 - Thursday Night Bible Study</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 - Jr. LYO Game Nite @ Grace</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:00 - Worship</p>
<p>17</p> <p>7:45 - Worship 8:55 - Senior Choir Practice 9:00 - Christian Education 10:00 - Celebration Worship/ Holy Communion 6:30 - Sr. LYO Bowling - Plaza Lanes 8:00 - DAA</p>	<p>18</p> <p>2:00 - Beth Moore Bible Study 7:30 - Dartball @ Oak Harbor</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:15 - Joy Circle</p>	<p>"G&T" DEADLINE 20</p> <p>5:00 - Spirit Meal 6:15 - Children's Choirs 6:30 - Prayer & Praise 7:15 - Small Groups 7:30 - Confirmation 7:30 - Bells 8:00 - R Life Meeting 8:30 - Praise Team</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00 - Soup Kitchen 6:30 - Thursday Night Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:00 - Worship/Holy Communion 7:00 - Crazy Kids - Ice Skating - Fremont Rec Center</p>
<p>24</p> <p>7:45 - Worship/Holy Communion 8:55 - Senior Choir Practice 9:00 - Christian Education 10:00 - Celebration Worship/ Holy Communion 8:00 - DAA</p>	<p>25</p> <p>2:00 - Beth Moore Bible Study 9:00 - Project Day 9:30 - MOPS 7:00 - GLCW Board Meeting 7:30 - Dartball @ Oak Harbor</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:00 - Soup Kitchen</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>5:00 - Spirit Meal 6:15 - Children's Choirs 6:30 - Prayer & Praise 7:15 - Small Groups 7:30 - Confirmation 7:30 - Bells 8:00 - R Life Meeting 8:30 - Praise Team</p>	<p>"G&T" ASSEMBLED 28</p> <p>11:00 - Soup Kitchen 6:30 - Thursday Night Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:00 - Worship</p>
<p>31</p> <p>ANNUAL MEETING 7:45 - Worship 8:55 - Senior Choir Practice 9:00 - Christian Education 10:00 - Celebration Worship/ Holy Communion 11:20 - Annual Meeting 8:00 - DAA</p>						<p>2010</p>



GREETERS

January 3, 17, 31

7:45 - M/M B. Smith (Front)
S. Watkins (Baptistry)
D. Burkett (Chapel)

10:00 - C. Slemmer (Front)
N. Sloma (Baptistry)
M/M T. Troxel (Chapel)

January 10 & 24

7:45 - M/M J. Lajti (Front)
C. Paeth (Baptistry)
J. Letzring (Chapel)

10:00 - T. McElfresh (Front)
M/M D. Linder (Baptistry)
S. Clevenger (Chapel)

USHERS

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

7:45 - G. Dupey
R. Schmitz
D. Zilles
P. Pelphrey

January 3, 17, 31

10:00 - T & P Karle
L. McElfresh
B. Williams

January 10 & 24

10:00 - S & L Nossaman
T. Clevenger
D. Cooper

JANUARY 3, 2010

ACOLYTES: 7:45 - Trenton Laird, Toni Laird
10:00 - Alexa Urban, Rachel Laeng
DEACONS: 7:45 - R. House, B. Seibert, C. Tuckerman, L. Widmer
10:00 - S. Nossaman, L. Rapp, L. Sachs, C. Troxel
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 10:00 - F. Keller, N. Kreilick, S. Laeng, B. Prasuhn
SOUND SYSTEM: B. Bilger(5:00), M. Hirt (7:45), M. McElfresh(10:00)

JANUARY 10

ACOLYTES: 7:45 - Allison Schrader, Meagan Buchele
10:00 - Nick Auen, Andy Burmeister
DEACONS: 7:45 - J. Connors, R. Damman, J. Kinn, B. Klohn, C. Klohn, C. Miller
10:00 - C. Waggoner, D. Willey, G. Gray, S. Auen
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 10:00 - T & C Troxel, T. McElfresh, S. Brickner
SOUND SYSTEM: N. Mayer(5:00), L. Garner (7:45), D. Prasuhn (10:00)

JANUARY 17

ACOLYTES: 7:45 - AJ Mehlow, Jacob Moses
10:00 - Brooke Baumann, Lindsay Lagrou
DEACONS: 7:45 - B. Seibert, C. Tuckerman, L. Widmer, R. House
10:00 - C. Amor, M. Bower, E. Chambers, G. Jess
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 10:00 - The Gedeon Family
SOUND SYSTEM: B. Bilger(5:00), M. Hirt (7:45), D. Pump(10:00)

JANUARY 24

ACOLYTES: 7:45 - Alex Swope, Tyler Kinkaid
10:00 - Bailey Eishen, Mariah Girand
DEACONS: 7:45 - J. Kinn, B. Klohn, C. Klohn, C. Miller, S. Farrell, J. Connors
10:00 - T. Joseph, N. Mayer, F. Lawrence, S. Nossaman
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 10:00 - The Jess Family
SOUND SYSTEM: N. Mayer(5:00), L. Garner (7:45), M. McElfresh (10:00)

JANUARY 31

ACOLYTES: 7:45 - Kyle Damman, Alex House
10:00 - Alexis Gedeon, Megan Joseph
DEACONS: 7:45 - R. Damman, R. House, J. Kinn, B. Klohn
10:00 - D. Linder, J. Linder, L. Rapp, L. Sachs
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 10:00 - J. Harris, F. Keller, N. Kreilick, S. Laeng
SOUND SYSTEM: B. Bilger(5:00), M. Hirt (7:45), D. Prasuhn(10:00)

FEBRUARY 7

ACOLYTES: 7:45 - Toni Laird, Trenton Laird
10:00 - Stephanie Billings, Lisa Billings
DEACONS: 7:45 - C. Klohn, C. Miller, B. Seibert, C. Tuckerman
10:00 - C. Troxel, C. Waggoner, D. Willey, G. Gray
COMMUNION ASSTS.: 10:00 - B, E, & M Muffler, B. Prasuhn
SOUND SYSTEM: N. Mayer(5:00), M. Hirt (7:45), D. Pump(10:00)

January 2010



Grace & Youth

Youth News

Upcoming Events

January Activities:

Jan 3rd- The Gathering for
Junior High students 6:00-8:00
PM.

Jan 10th- Encounter for High
School students from 6:00-7:30
PM.

Jan 15th - During confirmation
7:30-8:45PM we will have
guest speakers from the
Fremont Police Dept. Talk to
youth and parents about
internet safety.

Jan 15th- Jr LYO Game night
6:00-8:00PM. Please bring a
nerf guns and a small
flashlight. Please bring \$2 for
pizza.

Jan 17th- Sr LYO bowling at
Plaza Lanes. We will meet at
Plaza Lanes from 6:30-8:00.
The cost is \$3.50 per game and
\$2.50 for shoe rental. Please
bring \$2 for Pizza.

Jan 23rd - Crazy Kids Ice
Skating at the Fremont Rec
Center from 7:00-8:00 PM.
The cost is \$3.00 and this
includes the skate rental.

Happy New Year!

8 Ways to View the New Year

- 1. New Beginnings-** Start out the new year with a fresh point of view to new experiences. Have an open mind and heart to wherever the Lord may take you.
- 2. New Possibilities-** There is no limit to what God can do in your life.
- 3. New Plans-** Pray about what God has planned for you and be willing to walk by faith in obedience as you follow His leading.
- 4. New Purpose-** He has a reason for what He allows in your life, and through it you can trust Him completely (Prov.1:3-5).
- 5. New Provisions-** Trust in your Heavenly Father who knows everything you need.
- 6. New Growth-** When we are willing to let go and let God work in and through us, He will always stretch us and grow us.
- 7. New Wisdom-** With new experiences and lessons come new wisdom and insight.
- 8. Renewed Peace-** As you go through new experiences and new adventures, good or bad, I encourage you to keep your eyes fixed on Christ.

Remember these 8 lessons as we venture into the New Year!

(This information was found on www.justbetweenus.org)



On Wednesday, January 20th we will have two guest speakers from the Fremont Police Department joining our confirmation students to speak about internet safety. We will have a separate speaker just for parents to hear about internet safety. We hope that this will help us gain the knowledge to keep our youth and ourselves safe from internet predators.

Watch for more information in the bulletin. Contact Theresa Long