



June 2025 Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
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*"Grace Lutheran Church is a family united by faith in Christ,
which seeks to grow in that faith and to share it with others."*



⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. ¹⁰ "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

Luke 16:9-13 ESV

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

Between 1984 and 1995, Robin Leach was the host of a tv show called "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" which gave us a glimpse of how the wealthy lived. Many of you may remember this show. I know that I enjoyed watching it quite regularly. Robin took you on luxurious yachts, palatial estates, and showed us the daily lives of the upper crust. Then, at the end of the show, his tag line would offer us "champagne wishes and caviar dreams." While most of us realized that we would not live the lavish lifestyle of the top one percent, it still tempted us to desire some of those things. It placed in our minds a desire to obtain wealth and riches and dream of how our lives would be if we only had these riches. What the show was selling was LIFESTYLE. In and of itself, wealth is not a good or a bad thing. What our text, though, is trying to help us understand is that it is how we think about and use our wealth that makes it good or bad.

The treasures that we store on this earth are necessary. We need money to live our daily lives. The church needs money to keep the lights on, to buy communion supplies, and to maintain the church building. But what is more important? The importance of money, wealth, and possessions and the role they play in our lives has always been a source of tension in our lives, especially our spiritual lives. We can see this as Luke records the words of Jesus and His warning about the love of riches. Jesus reminds us that we can only have one master in our lives. Which master will it be? The first commandment requires us to have only one God in charge of and guiding our lives-- Father, Son, and Holy Ghost--one master to whom we devote ourselves. But many times, and all of us are guilty of this, we place other gods before Christ. In the Greek, Luke uses the word *mamōnas* (which the King James Version uses the term mammon).

And I say unto you, make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations... No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. KJV

Mammon is a Semitic word meaning "wealth" or "riches". In the New Testament, it is used by Jesus to describe material possessions, particularly money, that can be a source of temptation and a distraction from spiritual life.

Mammon, biblical term for riches, often used to describe the debasing influence of material wealth. The term was used by Jesus in his famous Sermon on the Mount. Medieval writers commonly interpreted it as an evil demon or god. Since the 16th century, mammon has been used to negatively describe the pursuit of wealth and has been used in both religious and secular contexts. Mammon often has a negative connotation in the Bible, suggesting that material wealth can be a corrupting influence and a cause of greed and avarice. While wealth itself isn't inherently evil, the misuse of wealth, especially when it leads to misplaced trust and a disregard for spiritual values, is highlighted by the term mammon.

Jesus also suggests that wealth can be used for good, such as by making friends or caring for others. However, he cautions against placing our trust and loyalty in it above God. What does that mean for us? It means that in all we do, in the lifestyle we live, that God should always be first. However, that is not always the case. Too many times, we place the pleasers of lifestyle over our devotion to God. As the summer approaches, it is too easy to blow off church and bible study for the activities of summer.

It is easy to party late on a Saturday night and stay in bed on Sunday morning. It is easy to plan outdoor events and forget our first calling is to proclaim the Gospel.

Does this mean we shouldn't enjoy the things of this world? By no means. God has richly blessed each of us. We live in a country and have lifestyles that are rich compared to other parts of the world. Enjoy what God has given, see His majesty in all of creation, take advantage of His gifts, but in all our lives "Serve the Lord and Him only.

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Weldon

Should you wish to contact Pastor Weldon, you may reach him on his cell phone at (270) 792-0570 or at his office at (440) 322-5497.

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Please pray for Barbara Hadaway; Dylan Fridenstine (Karen and Glen Fridenstine's grandson who is recovering after getting a piece of metal in his eye at work), Carolyn Husted; David Robinson (brother of Lee Anne Christner), Karen and Glen Fridenstine, Mike & Melissa Bennett (son-in-law and daughter of John and Kathy Knipper); Diane & Ron Senyak; Ken Deidrick (brother-in-law of Bonnie Abicht); Bev & Ray Hines, Dave & Marcia Metzger; and Coralie Swanzer.



*You are Invited
to Attend and Celebrate:*

*The Service of
Ordination and Installation
for
Glenn A. Mertz
Sunday - June 22
2:00 PM
followed by a reception*

*Grace Lutheran Church
9685 East River Rd. - Elyria
PH: 440-322-5497*

*Clergy are invited to participate in the service.
Contact Pastor Weldon at 270-792-0570 if you are planning on attending.
Color for the service is Red*

The ORDINATION/INSTALLATION OF PASTOR GLENN MERTZ

The ordination is scheduled for **Sunday, June 22, 2025, at 2:00 pm** at **Grace Lutheran Church in Elyria**(9685 East River Road). All members of Grace Oberlin are invited and encouraged to attend this service. A card basket for good wishes to Glenn as he becomes a pastor will be available.

Additionally, an invitation has been extended to anyone who would like to sing at this service with Grace Elyria's choir. It's an easy anthem and a familiar hymn. If anyone is interested in doing this, please call Trudi Jennings, Music Director, on her cell phone at 440-665-4489. Trudi will get music to you to go over. She will have a **choir rehearsal on June 18, 6:30pm** at

Grace-Elyria (9685 East River Rd, Elyria). Fellowship and refreshments will be served following the rehearsal.

***A warm Thank You, Congratulations and Well Wishes to
Grace's full-time Organist for the past two two years,
NATALY PAK!***

Nataly graduated from Oberlin Conservatory and received the David S. Boe Award for excellence in organ performance; and she has been selected to play in the commencement recital. We are proud to have had Nataly, as our Church Organist; and we are so thankful for her loyal devotion to providing our Church with her beautiful music. We have truly been blessed by Nataly's musical ability! Nataly helped make our Church a very special place of worship. We ask God to continue to bless and keep her; to protect you from all harm; and for a brilliant career and very happy future in Christ.

God is good; God is GREAT...

WELCOME BACK, JAMES!!!

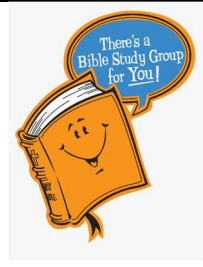
We, here at Grace, are so very blessed to have James Feddeck (aka "Jimmy" to those of you that have known him for years) back with us as our Organist for the summer season. World renowned and incredibly accomplished, James is humble and loyal to our Church and congregation. For those who do not know James, here is a little background from a bio of James on the internet...

""How could an orchestra not give its all under a conductor who so visibly loved the music in his care?" [Classical Voice America](#)

James Feddeck is an orchestral conductor whose musicianship is recognized worldwide.

As a youth, Feddeck learned the piano. From 2001 to 2006, Feddeck studied oboe, organ, piano, and conducting at the [Oberlin Conservatory of Music](#). He earned B.Mus. and M.Mus. degrees from Oberlin in 2005 and 2006. He was the first recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from Oberlin in 2010. At the Aspen Music Festival, Feddeck was a conducting fellow from 2006 to 2008, and assistant conductor for the 2009 season. From the Aspen Festival, he received the Robert J. Harth conducting prize and the Aspen Conducting Prize. From 2009 to 2013, Feddeck was Assistant Conductor of The [Cleveland Orchestra](#). In 2009, the Solti Foundation U.S. awarded Feddeck a career assistance grant, and in 2013, awarded him its highest honour, the Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award. In 2020, Feddeck became Principal Conductor of [Orchestra i Pomeriggi Musicali](#) in Milan, Italy.

Born in New York, James Feddeck has appeared extensively in North America, including with The Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Orchestre symphonique de Montreal, Seattle Synphony, San Francisco Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Toronto Symphony and Oregon Symphony. He has also conducted many of Europe's leading orchestras such as the Orchestre national de France, Vienna Radio Symphony, Deutsches Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, BBC Symphony, BBC Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony, Warsaw Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Weimar, City of Birmingham Symphony, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Barcelona Symphony, Stockholm Philharmonic, Helsinki Philharmonic, and the Halle; and has enjoyed successful visits to Australia with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Auckland Philharmonia. Feddeck studied at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, was Assistant Conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra. He is a winner of the Solti Conducting Award, and of the Aspen Conducting Prize.



Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 11:15 am with VICAR MERTZ

We are reviewing Luther's Small Catechism.

Wednesdays at 1:30pm with PASTOR WELDON

We are studying the Book of Daniel.

Wednesdays at 7:00pm with HARRIETT THOMAS

Please join us as we study the Book of Ephesians. *

This is available through Zoom. Please contact Harriett for details.

*** Evening Bible Study Schedule 7:00 PM**

Please Note: This Schedule May Be Updated

June 2025

Wednesday June 4th Grace Lutheran Church or Zoom

Wednesday June 11th Grace Lutheran Church or Zoom

Wednesday June 18th Grace Lutheran Church or Zoom

Wednesday June 25th **ZOOM ONLY**

July 2025

Wednesday July 2nd SUMMER BREAK – **NO CLASS**

Wednesday July 9th SUMMER BREAK – **NO CLASS**

Wednesday July 16th SUMMER BREAK – **NO CLASS**

Wednesday July 23rd SUMMER BREAK – **NO CLASS**

Wednesday July 30th SUMMER BREAK – **NO CLASS**

August 2025

Wednesday August 6th Grace Lutheran Church or Zoom

Wednesday August 13th Grace Lutheran Church or Zoom

Wednesday August 20th Grace Lutheran Church or Zoom

Wednesday August 27th Grace Lutheran Church or Zoom

September 2025

Wednesday September 3rd Grace Lutheran Church or Zoom

Wednesday September 10th Grace Lutheran Church or Zoom

Wednesday September 17th Grace Lutheran Church or Zoom

Wednesday September 24th Grace Lutheran Church or Zoom

Please join us as we complete our study of the Book of Jude and begin our study in the Books of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John.

WORSHIP INFORMATION

- Sunday morning worship continues to meet at **10:00 am** every week.
- **Private Communion** is offered at church or by pastoral home visit whenever requested. Please contact Pastor to schedule.
- If you or a friend cannot be at church with us, you can see videos of our Worship Services online. Go to our website or to our Facebook page at www.grace-churchoberlin.org or <https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurchOberlinOhio>. Our weekly bulletin and the readings are also posted on our website.

Communion Statement of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)

At Grace we come to the altar to receive the gift of the Lord's Supper. In the Lord's Supper those who are baptized receive through faith the true body and true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ "in, with and under" the bread and wine for their personal forgiveness and strengthening of faith (Matt. 26:26-28; John 6:51-55). We examine ourselves beforehand, mindful of our need for repentance (1 Cor. 11:27-29). In the Lord's Supper we are united with Christ and His body the Church, and also reflect the unity we have as a congregation with a common Christian, biblically-based confession (1 Cor. 10:16-17); see also John 6:56; Acts 2:42; Romans 16:17. Therefore, those who come forward to receive the Lord's Supper should be united with us in our understanding of the Lord's Supper, the real presence of Jesus therein, and the Lutheran Faith. We ask that any visitors who wish to be our guests at the Lord's Table please talk to the Pastor before the worship service.

Note: the cups of wine in the inner circle, which are a different color than the others, are non-alcoholic.