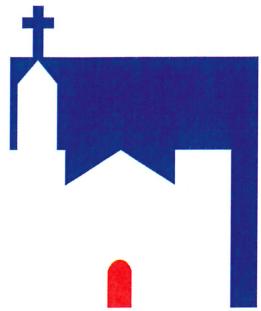


Amazing Grace

August 2025



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
315 Wayne Street
Sandusky, OH 44870

~ Mission Statement ~

"In light of our confidence that 'God loves you. No exceptions', Grace Episcopal Church strives to be a welcoming community, inviting everyone to learn, serve, and share in Christ's love."

The Most Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop
The Rev. Anne B. Jolly, Bishop, Diocese of Ohio

MASS

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

In-Person, livestreamed on Boxcast, and on Facebook

Daily Mass at 9am

Wednesday and Thursday

In-Person and on Facebook

Tuesday at 5:30pm

In-Person and on Facebook

All services are in the Chapel during our Church renovation

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 8am - 3pm

CONTACT US

Telephone

419-625-6919

Website

GraceSandusky.org

Church Office E-Mail

office@GraceSandusky.org

Fr. Seth Wymer, Rector

frseth@GraceSandusky.org

Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster

rarcpa@sbcglobal.net

Parish Staff

Fr. Seth Wymer, Rector

Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster

Debbie Chase, Parish Administrator

Susie Kuns, Housekeeper

Bob Speers, Parish Historiographer

RECTOR'S REFLECTION - AUGUST 2025

As we find ourselves in the midst of the “dawg days” let us be thankful for air conditioning! I pray everyone’s summers are going well, and for those who are going or have gone on vacations that they were restful and relaxing!

Church things in July have been interesting! We survived another Ironman competition; a special shout out to our own Andy Short for competing and finishing the race! We had 2 baptisms in July - Noah Servin (first grandchild of Andy and Beth Short), and Mark Pittman.



And we have been thriving under our three Mass weekends with the averages listed below:

Mass	Average Attendance
5:30p	23
8a	18
10a	40
10a online	13
Total	94

Things in August will start to ramp up again. On Saturday, **August 9th** the ladies of Grace will enjoy an evening of shopping and a meal. The store, *Gifts that Give Back*, was born out of a couples’ response to the question, “Who is my neighbor?” I pray that meeting Cassie and hearing about their amazing work may get some of the juices flowing for what else we might want to/be able to do as a people of God. The following Saturday we will be baptizing Hadley Avila, the newest member of the Hart clan.

I also want to highlight two events:

- ⇒ **Sunday, August 17th** we will bless backpacks for the kids who are heading back to school and the teachers and school administrators who are with us that weekend.
- ⇒ **Sunday, August 24th** we will have a Committee Bazaar. During our retreat the Vestry and I discussed the need to streamline some of our practices and re-engage the parish (especially given our recent growth) to help give your ministry passions an outlet. While the parish leadership has ideas and thoughts as to how to be Jesus Christ in the Firelands – you all certainly have passions and ideas as well, and what better way to engage them by asking for your help in bringing these ideas to reality. Below is the how these committees will be organized:

Name	Purpose in the life of Grace Church
Invite	Marketing and getting Grace’s name out in the community
Formation	Children’s Chapel and Adult Faith Formation
Worship	Music, Acolytes, Altar Guild, and Streaming
Outreach	Thrift Shop, Grants, Community Meals, Food Card Give-a-way, and Pantry
Properties	Church and Thrift Shop buildings and grounds
Parish Life	Gatherings of the parish, fun events, parties, and celebrations
Finance	Investments, Stewardship, and Budget
Welcome	Membership forms, orientation, and name tags
Inreach	Birthday cards, condolences, food (surgeries, deaths, and births)
Pride	LGBTQIA+ events and formation

The Vestry and I encourage you to think and pray about where God may be calling you to help serve, and what aspects of Grace’s life are you passionate about?

~Cont'd~

Looking ahead to September a couple of things of note: I will be on vacation from September 13th – 24th. This means there will be no services during the week during those times (including Tuesdays). We are grateful for our own Carol Fleming for covering the 14th and an ELCA minister from Food for the Poor joining us for the 21st. And in the midst of all of that Debbie is off on vacation from the 19th through October 3rd, so if you need things from the church or from Deb or myself please plan ahead to get in touch with us before then. Fr. Mike Floyd has agreed to cover pastoral emergencies while I am gone. Julie Eastlake (419-357-0248) will cover those calls to get in touch with him.

See you in church on Sunday,

Fr. Seth | Rector

Ministry/Committee Bazaar

Sunday, August 24th we will have a Committee Bazaar after both services. During our retreat the Vestry discussed the need to streamline some of our practices and re-engage the parish (especially given our recent growth) to help give your ministry passions an outlet. While the parish leadership has ideas and thoughts as to how to be Jesus Christ in the Firelands – you all certainly have passions and ideas as well, and what better way to engage them by asking for your help in bringing these ideas to reality.

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AFTER HOURS OFFICE HOUR

On Thursdays in July, Fr. Seth has his after hours office hour at 6pm at the church.



Stop by if you want to chat!

PASTORAL CARE

If you know of someone in the congregation who is ill, homebound or in the hospital please let the parish office or Fr. Seth know so that he can visit them. Fr. Seth's contact information is: 740.624.5818 and frseth@gracesandusky.org



Below are some important dates of events taking place here and in the Diocese in August. If you have any questions or would like further information, please reach out to Fr. Seth or Debbie in the Parish Office.

Upcoming EVENTS

Sunday, the 3rd

9a - Adult Faith Formation in the Meeting Room - The Secular Christ Season 3 EP 3
11a - Outreach Committee Meeting in Guild Room

Tuesday, the 5th

9:30a - Stuff the Bus pick up

Thursday, the 7th

9:30a Men's Coffee Clatch @ Vita
6p-7p - Fr. Seth's After Hour Office Hour

Saturday, the 9th

2:30p - ????? Ladies Night in Lakeside
5:30p - Vigil Mass

Sunday, the 10th

8a - Mass
9a Adult Faith Formation in the Meeting Room
The Secular Christ Season 3 EP 4
10a - Mass

Tuesday, the 12th

9a Thrift Shop Steering Committee meeting

Thursday, the 14th

6p-7p - Fr. Seth's After Hours Office Hour

Saturday, the 16th

11a - Baptism
5:30p - Vigil Mass (with blessing of backpacks)

Sunday, the 17th

8a - Mass (with blessing of backpacks)
9a - Faith Formation in the Meeting Room
The Secular Christ Season 3 EP 5
10a - Mass (with blessing of backpacks)

Thursday, the 21st

6p-7p - Fr. Seth's After Hours Office Hour

Saturday, the 23rd

4:30p-5:30p - 1st Community Meal Mary Simpson Room
5:30p - Vigil Mass

Sunday, the 24th

8a - Mass
Committee Bazaar in the Mary Simpson Room
10a - Mass
Committee Bazaar in the MSR

Thursday, the 28th

6p-7p - Fr. Seth's After Hours Office Hour

Saturday, the 30th

4:30p-5:30p in the MSR - 2nd Community Meal of the month
5:30p - Vigil Mass

Sunday, the 3^{1st}

8a - Mass
9a - Faith Formation in the Meeting Room
The Secular Christ Season 3 EP 6
10a - Mass



As you know the pews in the church were sent out to be repaired and refinished as part of our renovation project. These are the original 190 year old pews. They were lovingly constructed with hand-made square head nails. When they return to us they will have been re-constructed with modern day hardware.

Before everything was swept up and thrown away we were able to salvage some of the original nails. If you would like one, to remember part of the original Grace church construction, please see Fr. Seth or Debbie.

Church Renovation

In this sixth installment we are witnessing the end of the demolition work and the start of some of the finishing work.

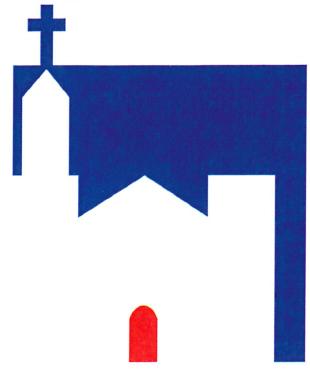
From the middle of July on we have had the plasterer in the church. Given the extent of plaster repair to be done, this may take up to four weeks to complete. We have also had electrical rough-ins for the new lighting, and HVAC work to extend the ductwork for the new diffusers and relocate a radiator to a new wall.

On the 22nd a team from the Toledo Blade visited to do a story on the church and renovation. Keep an eye out in the papers for that story.

August will see the new trim go up around the stained glass windows and on the wall opposite the organ pipes, the stone work being installed, and possibly the start of the painting. All of this timing will again depend on the extent of the plaster repair needed.

As always, if you have any questions, or want to stop up before or after Mass on the weekend, please know you are more than encouraged to do so!

Fr. Seth



Thank You...

I want to take this opportunity to thank Dave Schoewe for his weekly check-ins on the renovation work on behalf of the Properties Committee. In his own words - it's a labor of love! Thank you, Dave!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION THE SECULAR CHRIST

On Sundays at 9a, we will be discussing the episodes of *Secular Christ*. This Youtube series and podcast delves into ways that church going people can have conversations with the world that is moving away from Jesus or see no need of him.

The link for Season 3 Episode 3 is below.

We will discuss on Sunday, August 3rd.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfmbUJz3QSs>

The link for Season 3 Episode 4 is below.

We will discuss on Sunday, August 10th.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yoqv556meM4>

The link for Season 3 Episode 5 is below.

We will discuss on Sunday, August 17th.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYO6wSXp1yE>

The link for Season 3 Episode 6 is below.

We will discuss on Sunday, August 31st.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rANwMO5YktM>

Grace Food Pantry

Something we started about a year ago here at Grace was a small food pantry for those in need. We keep the cupboard in the kitchen stocked with canned and dry goods all the time for anyone that comes in needing a little extra help.

About three months ago we started to run low on items and Fr. Seth put the word out for help. And, **YOU** have been more than generous! We now have enough food to last many months.

We would like this opportunity to thank you so very much for helping us help those who need a little extra to get them through the month.

Thank you...

Dear Ones,

It is with great joy that I announce the Rev. Barb Reszko's placement as a Regional Deacon for six months. This new role is a faithful step forward in how we live out our ministry in the Diocese of Ohio, especially the servant leadership to which our deacons are called.



The Regional Deacon's ministry is rooted in building relationships by spending time in community, listening with compassion, and reflecting deeply on what it means to serve in Jesus' name. Barb will work with faith communities and local partners in the North Central Mission Area to help us see and respond to the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world around us. Some examples include serving with Old Trinity, Tiffin and its new Community Kitchen and supporting lay-led outreach at St. Paul's, Bellevue.

The creation of the Regional Deacon role is another representation of how we can work together to be innovative in building community and increasing vitality in our congregations. It exemplifies the Diocese of Ohio's vision: Connected in Beloved Community, we seek to be faithful, healthy, effective, and sustainable sharers of the transformative love of Jesus.



Barb is a life-long Episcopalian with dual Master's degrees in Social Work and Divinity from the University of Chicago and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, as well as a Diploma in Anglican Studies at Bexley Seabury. She has 15 years of experience as a mental health therapist specializing in trauma treatment and is trained in EMDR, Polyvagal Theory, Somatic psychology, Internal Family Systems, Motivational Interviewing, and Trauma-informed Care. It is with deep appreciation that I recognize Barb's commitment to bi-vocational ministry as she faithfully lives into her calling to serve both the church and the world around her.

I'm so grateful for the willingness of Deacon Barb and our participating faith communities to lead in this way, and I'm excited to see how the Holy Spirit moves in their work together. Please join me in celebrating this new ministry and Barb's work among us.

God's Peace,
+Anne

The Rt. Rev. Anne B Jolly
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio



The deadline to submit information for the September/October newsletter is **Tuesday, August 26th**.

Just a reminder - The Church Office is closed on Mondays through August so that Debbie can use up some vacation time.



Noah Servin, first grandson of Beth and Andy Short, was baptized on Saturday, July 26th at the home of the Shorts.

Their friend, Mark Pittman, was also baptized that day.



Congratulations!

Girls Evening Out

You're invited!

Join us for shopping and dinner out.

When: August 9th

Where: Gifts that Give Back (123 W. Second Street Lakeside Marblehead, OH)

Dinner: Crows Nest (2170 N. Buck Road, Lakeside Marblehead, OH)

Meet at the Church by 2:30 p.m.

Bring a friend!



Get ready for a fabulous girls' night out filled with fun, fashion, and friendship! We'll kick things off with a shopping trip to Gifts That Give Back at Lakeside—an inspiring Fair Trade store offering unique, handcrafted clothing and goods from around the world, all while supporting artisans with fair wages.

After we shop for treasures with purpose, we'll head over to The Crow's Nest for a delicious dinner and great conversation. It's the perfect way to unwind, connect, and treat ourselves.

Invite your friends - carpooling will be available to make things easy and eco-friendly. We can't wait to see you there! A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside of the offices.

Sorry we missed your birthday.



Happy Belated Birthday to Greg Eastlake, who celebrated his birthday on July 8th.

August Birthdays

1 st	Stewie Ali
2 nd	Kate Gott
5 th	Grant W. Walls, Jr.
7 th	Jason Neiding
15 th	DeeDee Tetzloff
20 th	Ann Russell
23 rd	Monica Fletcher
25 th	Debbie Chase
	Mary Ellen Wieber
31 st	Paul Homberger

*Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase;
bless and guide them wherever they may be.
Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when
discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up when they fall;
and in their hearts may your peace
which passes understanding,
abide all the days of their lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

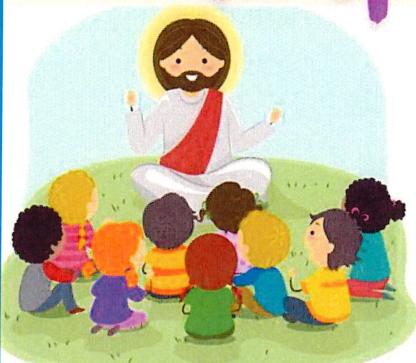
***Our apologies if we missed your birthday.
Please advise the church office
of any changes or omissions.***

On July 4th Grace volunteers passed out cookie and water to visitors at the downtown Stars & Stripes Celebration.

Thank you to Becky Montague, Susan Hunt, Mary Hartz and Debbie Gerold for their help.



Children's Chapel



Every 1st and 3rd Sunday

For children Preschool through 3rd

We are in need of some help to lead Children's Chapel on the 1st Sundays of the month.

A love for Jesus and completion of Safe Church Training is all that is required.

If you have questions please speak with Fr Seth, Jenny Schoewe, or Judy Smith (the latter lead it on the 3rd Sundays of the month).

Volunteers
needed



COMMUNITY MEAL

Our August Community Meal dates are **Saturday, the 23rd and Saturday, the 30th**. We serve our meals in the Mary Simpson Room from 4:30 - 5:30 pm.

Donations of fresh fruit and desserts are always needed and appreciated. These donations help keep the cost of the meal down.

If you can help, items can be dropped off at the church the week before the meal(s) between 8am and 3pm or the Saturday of the meal after 3pm.

Interested in possibly being one of our cooks? Helpers? Questions? Please contact Lisa Fowler (lisa.fowler@bex.net)

MEN'S COFFEE CLATCH

Thursday, August 7th

9:30am at Vita, 256 Columbus Ave.

Join Fr. Seth in a judgment free discussion of today's hot topics.



Thrift shop

Serving our community since 1948



Grace Episcopal Thrift Shop

301 East Market Street • Sandusky, OH 44870

419-626-5453

Hours: Tuesday-Friday: Noon-4pm

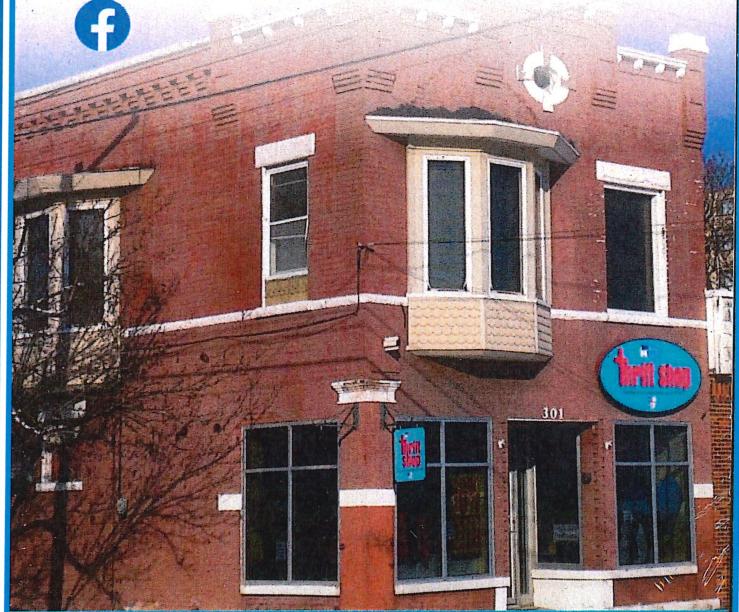
Saturday: 10am-1pm

Closed Sunday & Monday

• Clothing, Decor and Housewares •

All Proceeds Benefit Erie County Charities

Our Store Is Staffed By Community Volunteers



• Donations Accepted, In Season •

Stuff the Bus

Stuff the Bus Erie County is a committee comprised of the Sandusky Mall, Sandusky Bay Kiwanis Foundation and VacationLand Federal Credit Union. This program is for any child in grades K-8 attending a school in Erie or Huron County in 2025. This is possible through the generous donations we receive each year from community partners. Grace Church is again a partner and collection site this year. **Last year over 850 backpacks were stuffed**, and they expect to meet or exceed the same need this year.



A box is located in the lobby for donations.

We are collecting items until August 4th

Below is a list of supplies needed. **Items should be new.**

Backpacks

(non-gender colors preferred, drawstrings acceptable, no wheels)

No. 2 Pencils

Crayola crayons (16-24 ct)

Crayola markers (watercolor, 8-10 pk)

Colored Pencils

Pens: black, blue & red

Highlighters

Glue sticks

Bottled glue

Rulers

Folders (2 pocket, solid colors)

Wide-ruled paper (loose leaf & spiral)

College-ruled paper (loose leaf & spiral)

Composition books

Scissors

Pink erasers

Pencil boxes and pencil pouches

3-ring binders

Fiskars scissors

Tax deductible monetary donations will also be accepted for backpacks and school supplies. Please make checks payable to United Way of Erie County (write "school supplies" on memo line). Mail checks to: VacationLand Federal Credit Union, Attn: Heather Gilchrist, 2911 Hayes Ave., Sandusky, OH 44870.

August 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Rector's Sabbath	2 Vigil Mass 5:30pm
3 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Chapel Children's Chapel	4 Rector's Sabbath Church Office Closed	5 Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	6 Daily Eucharist 9 am Choir Practice 7pm	7 Daily Eucharist 9 am Men's Coffee Vita 9:30am After Hours Office Hour 6pm	8 Rector's Sabbath Food card giveaway 9am	9 Ladies Night to Lakeside 2:30pm Vigil Mass 5:30pm
10 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Chapel	11 Rector's Sabbath Church Office Closed	12 Thrift Shop Steering Committee mtg 9am Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	13 Daily Eucharist 9 am Choir Practice 7pm	14 Daily Eucharist 9 am After Hours Office Hour 6pm	15 Rector's Sabbath	16 Vigil Mass 5:30pm
17 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Chapel Children's Chapel	18 Rector's Sabbath Church Office Closed	19 Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	20 Daily Eucharist 9 am Choir Practice 7pm	21 Daily Eucharist 9 am After Hours Office Hour 6pm	22 Rector's Sabbath	23 Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p Vigil Mass 5:30pm
24 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Chapel Ministry/Committee Bazaar after the services	25 Rector's Sabbath Church Office Closed	26 Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	27 Daily Eucharist 9 am Choir Practice 7pm	28 Daily Eucharist 9 am After Hours Office Hour 6pm	29 Rector's Sabbath	30 Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p Vigil Mass 5:30pm
31 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Chapel						

AUGUST RESPONSIBILITIES

	August 3 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	August 10 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	August 17 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	August 24 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	August 31 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Ushers/Greeters	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Lector/Chalice Bearer 8AM	Debbie Chase	Amy Fox	Mark Pifer	Kitty Smith	Debbie Chase
Lector/Chalice Bearer 10AM	Janet Poyer	Jim Hart	Jeff Mettert	Janet Poyer	Jim Hart
Lector/Chalice Bearer 5:30PM (Saturday)	Ellen Mettert	Mark Pifer	Becky Montague	Amy Fox	Ellen Mettert
Livestream					
Altar Guild	Judy Porterfield	Marcia Fordham	Barby Gravengaard	Ellen Mettert	Judy Porterfield
Coffee Hour	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED
OF COMFORT OR HEALING**

Amelia	James	Mia
Andrea	Jeff	Michael
Barbara	Jeff & Nancy	Mike, Shelly &
Bernadette	Jenny, Dave, & Tate	Derrick Nancy
Bettie		Pauline
Betty & Mike	JoAnn	Richard, Lisa
Bev	Joe	& Missy
Bob	Joea & Neill	John & Alice
Caine & Owen		Ron & Rene
Carolynne	Judy & Jim	Ron & Rene
Cheryl	Karen	Ruth
Dawn	Kate	Sr. Rosemary
Doug & Beth	Kian	St. Barnabas
Dudley & Linda	Kris	Episcopal Church
Emily	Lauren	Steve
Emily & baby	Liz	Steve & Kathy
Erica	Marie	Sue
Ernie	Matthew	Wayne

*If you, a family member, or a friend is in need
of Pastoral Care, or is hospitalized,
please call the Church Office at 419-625-6919.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO
PROTECT AND SERVE**

Ted Bertsch	Brian Michael Laws
Cameron Brace	Marcus Mettert
Chris Cheek	Kevin Poyer
Sam Freeman	Sean Poyer
Adam Hagelberger	Thomas Roesch
Joel Hagy	Cameren Scholl
James R. Hart, III	Jamison Shriver
Craig Lambert	Ayden Swinehart
Vance Lambert	Matt Trautman

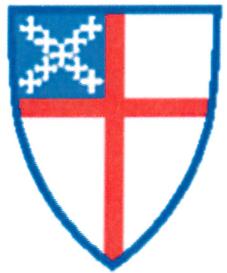
**The Church Offices will be closed Monday,
September 1st for Labor Day.**

**LOOKING
AHEAD**

**Fr. Seth will be on vacation
September 13th through 24th.**

**Debbie Chase, Parish Administrator,
will be on vacation September 19th
through October 3rd.**

**God loves you.
No exceptions.**



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You. www.dohio.org