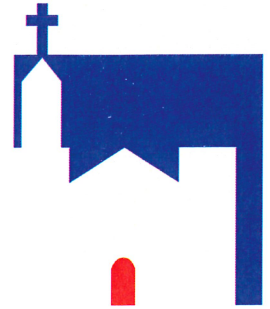


# *Amazing Grace*

## **November 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 - NOVEMBER 2025

I am glad that things are back to normal, back to writing for one month at a time, that two months at once thing was for the birds (and to be honest, at times I struggle to come up with topics – but not today my friends, not today). November is going to be a very busy month, which is good, because there is a lot to be happy, excited, and proud about. Before we jump into that...



I want to first give a huge THANK YOU to Debbie, Randy, Julie Eastlake, Brandon Johnson, Rev. Carol Fleming, Shantel Light, and the people from Food for the Poor who stepped up and allowed me to get away on vacation with the family – it was a much needed and greatly enjoyed time away!

On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have our pledge in-gathering. I love that we are doing this on the Feast of All Souls. On this day we pray for those souls known to us and unknown to us who have died and entered their eternal reward. In our circumstance we rely heavily on the generosity of a number of these souls. Having our in-gathering this weekend on this feast, helps us realize that while we rely on the generosity of others, we take ownership of the need to support this place that is beloved by so many and that allows us to meet God here and share him in the world.

November will see us enjoying the church's completion (hopefully)! This is a huge milestone in the life of Grace Church. It will also see us gathering to bake cookies on the 21<sup>st</sup> to give out to the community when we welcome Santa Claus to his winter home on the 28<sup>th</sup>. We will cover the baking needs (or if someone would like to donate items that would be appreciated as well) and pizza and salad to enjoy while we bake. We'll watch some Christmas movies and bake Christmas cookies. On Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> we'll need volunteers to hand out the cookies and hot chocolate to those who come downtown to get their face time with Santa. It is one of the amazing ways that we can showcase our generosity and love of our community to those who live in the Firelands. It also may help show off our newly renovated church AND give us an opportunity to talk up all the amazing work we do in and for the community!

Starting in November we will also use our Adult Faith Formation time to walk through the Nicene Creed. These foundational and missional statement of belief that is used in Anglican, Catholic, the majority of Protestant churches, and versions of it are used in Orthodox worship turned 1,700 years old this year and I would like to walk through it with those who find its contents interesting, problematic, or just boring to tease out why we express our belief in this way. There is an old church adage *Lex orandi, lex credendi*, for those whose Latin is not so hot, the loose translation is "As we pray [which includes worship], so we believe". Given the significance of how we worship and what is said during our liturgies, it is probably good that we know why and how this affects what we believe about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the church (interestingly enough all things we say we believe in in the creed).

November will also see your elected delegates to convention gather with other Episcopalians throughout the diocese at convention on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

While this may seem a lot, the amazing and beautiful news is that all of this isn't falling on the shoulders of a couple of people, but the work will be spread throughout the congregation!

See you in church on Sunday,

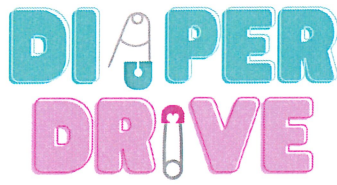
Fr. Seth | Rector



### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Pledge in-gathering and prayers for those interred in our columbarium
10 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> :	Fr. Seth is away on retreat, so no services this week
15 <sup>th</sup> :	Diocesan Convention
16 <sup>th</sup> :	Vestry Meeting
21 <sup>st</sup> from 5:30p-7:30p:	Christmas cookie baking, movies and pizza
22 <sup>nd</sup> :	Our lone community meal of the month
28 <sup>th</sup> : from 5p-7p:	Light Up Sandusky and pass out cookies and hot chocolate

### DIAPER DRIVE FOR THE CENTER



The first two weekends in November we are collecting donations of baby diapers and baby wipes to help The Center (formerly Nehemiah Center) to help with their Breakfast Buddies program which is geared towards younger children. They are requesting diapers (size 2, 3 and 4) and baby wipes. A collection area is in the lobby under the coat racks. Want more information about the Center? Go to their website <https://thecentersandusky.org/> or talk with Zach Jardon, Program Director.

### COMMUNITY MEAL

Our November Community Meal date is **Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>**. We are only having one meal in November.

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](mailto:lisa.fowler@bex.net) or 419-602-7969).

**Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> and  
Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> is  
Ingathering Weekend.**

We will ceremoniously collect our pledges as a sign of the greater offering of our very lives to the Gospel. May you be blessed by your offering.



### CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

This Christmas we continue our tradition of collecting items for the youth at the Erie County Juvenile Justice Center. These small items brighten their holidays, where they may otherwise look forward to a bleak Christmas.



The list is on the following page. We will collect items until December 16<sup>th</sup>. A collection box is in the lobby for donations. In years past our parishioners (and friends of Grace) have been very generous. These children greatly appreciate this gesture of love.

### PRAYERS FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD IN NOVEMBER

During the month of November we pray for all of our beloved dead, and we ask their prayers to God on our behalf while we still struggle here.



As we have done in the past, we will have our Book of Remembrance out for you to add the names of family members or friends who have died, and we will remember them at all of our services during the month of November.



# *Christmas Outreach*

## *The Erie County Juvenile Justice Center*

Members of the Outreach Committee have designated  
the Erie County Juvenile Justice Center  
as our Christmas outreach recipient again this year.

**We have been helping the ECJJC with this Christmas outreach since 2012!**

The staff is so appreciative for the gifts to the children in the facility.  
Our gifts make a difference in their lives and hearts  
during the Christmas season.

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**Small scented lotions** (*ex. Cocoa Butter lotion*)

**Hairbrushes** for females

**Snacks/Candy** (*No nuts, lollipop sticks, or gum*)

**Pop Tarts**

**Beef jerky**

**Gatorade/Powerade**

**Water bottles with the flavor packets**

**Stress items!!!**

**Books** for young adult and teenagers

**DVDs** rated G, PG or PG-13 (*No nudity, drug, or sexual content - new or used*)

**Board and Card games**

**Monetary donations**

(*checks made out to the Erie County Juvenile Justice Center*)

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**A collection box is located in the lobby under the coat racks**

**Thank you for whatever you can contribute to this project.**

**We will collect items through mid-December.**

**Members of the Outreach Committee will deliver these gifts on December 17<sup>th</sup>.**

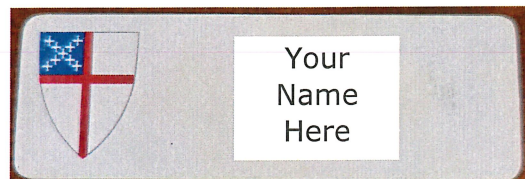


## A GENTLE REMINDER: PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAMETAG!

### *Let's Make Everyone Feel Welcome*

As we continue to grow and welcome new faces—both members and guests—we want to make sure everyone feels at home in our congregation. Even those of us who have been around for years sometimes need a little help remembering names (faces, we've got down!). And with our "snow bird" friends joining us for part of the year, there are always new connections to make.

Our recent renovations and special events are sure to bring more visitors and opportunities for fellowship. So here's a light-hearted request: please remember to wear your nametag each Sunday, and for any Grace Church activity or event! It's a small gesture that makes a big difference in helping everyone feel included and easing those "I know your face, but..." moments.



Let's keep the spirit of hospitality shining bright—one nametag at a time!

Thank you for making our church a place where everyone belongs.

We also want to thank everyone for keeping their nametag easy to find and ready to use—your thoughtfulness truly helps our community connect. If you've misplaced your nametag, don't worry! Just let the church office know, and we'll be happy to provide a replacement. Name tags are available to all who worship at Grace, ensuring everyone feels at home each time they join us.

### **HOLIDAY LIGHTING CEREMONY & SANTA'S ARRIVAL WASHINGTON PARK FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> FROM 6-8 PM**

We are going to be outside the North doors of the church passing out cookies and hot chocolate to all who come to see the lighting ceremony.

We will have a cookie baking night at the church on **Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm**. We'll have pizza and Christmas movies playing for the volunteers. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

And, if you want to come and help pass out goodies, another sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

### **2025 OUTREACH GRANTS**

The Outreach Committee met on October 12<sup>th</sup> to review the grant applications.

A list of organizations who were awarded this year's grant will be announced in the December newsletter.

A festive poster for a Christmas Cookie Baking event. The background is white with orange and red accents. At the top, the words "CHRISTMAS" and "BAKING" are in large, bold, orange letters. In the middle, "COOKIE" is written in large, outlined letters, with a gingerbread man shape replacing the letter 'O'. Below this, the date and time "NOV 21 5:30-7:30 PM" are displayed in orange. Further down, the text "JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS BAKING PARTY AND CHRISTMAS MOVIES" is written in orange. At the bottom, it says "PIZZA WILL BE PROVIDED" in orange. The poster is decorated with various Christmas-themed illustrations: a cookie cutter, a gingerbread man, a snowflake, a whisk, a cookie, a snow globe, a cookie cutter, a gingerbread house, and a cookie.



### MEN'S COFFEE

**Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**  
9:30am  
Vita, 256 Columbus Ave.



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

### AFTER HOURS OFFICE HOUR

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



Stop by if you want to chat!

**No After Hours on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.**

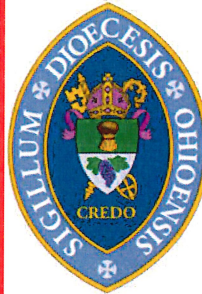


The deadline to submit information for the December newsletter is **Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.**

### 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](mailto:frseth@gracesandusky.org)



### ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The Annual Convention of the Diocese of Ohio is the legislative body that approves the diocesan program and budget, elects persons to various groups, which serve the diocese, adopts resolutions on various issues, and approves changes in the Constitution and Canons of the diocese.

Each congregation in union with the convention, that is, those that are current with payment of diocesan assessments and Church pension requirements, is entitled to be represented by not more than three lay adult delegates in good standing in their respective congregations. Delegates are chosen in accordance with the prescribed Canon, or by special parochial charter or bylaws of the parish. Attendance at Annual Convention is not limited to lay delegates and clergy. Youth and adult members of all congregations are welcome and encouraged to attend.

This year's delegates from Grace are Becky Montague, Debbie Chase and Brandon Johnson. The Diocese of Ohio Annual Convention is November 14-15 and will be held at the Greystone Event Center in Wooster.

### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Church Offices will be closed Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. It will re-open Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 8am.

Every hour is  
always going to be

## Coffee O'clock



Nothing says "Welcome" quite like an invitation to share a snack and enjoy a cup of coffee together after breaking bread at church.

Join Us as a Host

We are always looking for hosts for our coffee hour after our 10 am service.

This vital ministry significantly contributes to welcoming visitors and fostering our community spirit.





I want to take this opportunity to thank Larry & April McCormack and Rick Doyan for their care of the landscaping and beds around the church.



**Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.**  
**Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.**



## Arts @ Grace

Starting this month we will be displaying the artwork of the members of the Firelands Area Art League. Their work will be here until the end of December. Stop in the Mary Simpson Room and check out these beautiful pieces.

Some are even for sale!

If you would like more information about the Firelands Area Art League, you can visit their Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/Firelands-Area->



3 <sup>rd</sup>	Connie Fais
	Judy Smith
5 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Hartz
16 <sup>th</sup>	Callum Pifer
17 <sup>th</sup>	Arlo Wymer
19 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Wood
	Mary Hartz
20 <sup>th</sup>	James Smith
21 <sup>st</sup>	Carmella Lamarca
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Cathy Pifer
27 <sup>th</sup>	Laura Patterson
29 <sup>th</sup>	Beth Short

Happy Belated Birthday to Dave Cooksey who celebrated his birthday September 1<sup>st</sup>.

*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.***

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED. ESPECIALLY

Barbara Nielsen (September 12, 2025)

Gracious God, nothing in death or life, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, nothing in all creation can separate us from your love. We commend these our beloved ones into your loving care. Enfold them in the arms of your mercy. Bless them in their dying and their rising again in you. Bless those whose hearts are filled with sadness, that they too may know the hope of resurrection; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.



### THANKSGIVING EUCHARIST

Our Thanksgiving Day service will take place **Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel.





November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Properties committee mtg 10am  Ingathering Vigil Mass 5:30pm
2 All Souls Day  Ingathering Sunday  Mass 8am Chapel  Adult Faith Formation 9am  Mass 10am Chapel Children's Chapel	3 Rector's Sabbath          Choral Society practice 7pm	4    Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	5 Daily Eucharist 9 am     Choir Practice 7pm	6 Daily Eucharist 9 am  Men's Coffee Vita 9:30am   After Hours Office Hour 6pm	7 Rector's Sabbath	8          Vigil Mass 5:30pm
9 Mass 8am Chapel  Adult Faith Formation 9am  Mass 10am Chapel  DOK Daughters Dinner	10 Rector's Sabbath          Choral Society practice 7pm	11 Fr. Seth on Retreat  Thrift Shop Steering committee mtg 9am				12          Vigil Mass 5:30pm
16 Mass 8am Chapel  Adult Faith Formation 9am  Mass 10am Chapel Children's Chapel  Vestry meeting 11:30am	17 Rector's Sabbath	18       Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	19 Daily Eucharist 9 am  Budget Committee Meeting 10am  Kinship Meeting 5pm  Choir Practice 7pm	20 Daily Eucharist 9 am    After Hours Office Hour 6pm	21 Rector's Sabbath	22     Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p  Vigil Mass 5:30pm
23 Christ the King  Mass 8am Chapel  Adult Faith Formation 9am  Mass 10am Chapel	24 Rector's Sabbath       Choral Society practice 7pm	25       Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	26 Daily Eucharist 9 am    Choir Practice 7pm	27 Thanksgiving Church Offices Closed  Thanksgiving Eucharist 9 am	28 Rector's Sabbath Church Offices Closed  Holiday Lighting Ceremony Cookie Giveaway 6pm	29    Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p  Vigil Mass 5:30pm
30 Advent Begins Mass 8am Chapel  Adult Faith Formation 9am  Mass 10am Chapel						



## NOVEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

	November 2 All Soul's Day	November 9 22nd Sunday after Pentecost	November 16 23rd Sunday after Pentecost	November 23 Christ the King	November 30 First Sunday of Advent
Lector/Chalice Bearer 8AM	Kitty Smith	Mark Pifer	Debbie Chase	Mark Pifer	Debbie Chase
Lector/Chalice Bearer 10AM	Ellen Mettert	Janet Poyer	Jeff Mettert	Marcia Fordham	Becky Montague
Lector/Chalice Bearer 5:30PM	Janet Poyer	Amy Fox	Janet Poyer	Amy Fox	Amy Fox
Livestream	Jeff Fowler	Don Lenhart	Jeff Fowler	Brandon Johnson	Jeff Fowler
Altar Guild	Barby Gravengaard	Ellen Mettert	Marcia Fordham	Mary Ellen Hart	Ellen Mettert
Coffee Hour	Barby Gravengaard	Jenny Schoewe	Becky Montague	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	Becky Montague

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

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

***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	Brandon Robinson
Joel Hagy	Thomas Roesch
James R. Hart, III	Cameren Scholl
Craig Lambert	Jamison Shriver
Vance Lambert	Ayden Swinehart
	Matt Trautman

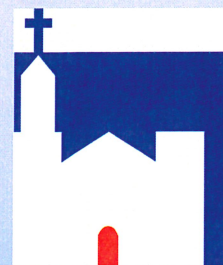
### THRIFT SHOP HELP WANTED

The Thrift Shop is looking for help,  
especially on Thursdays and Fridays.  
Even one day a month is helpful.

The hours are noon until 4pm.  
If you are interested or would like more  
information about volunteering,  
please contact Mary Toney (419-239-6644).

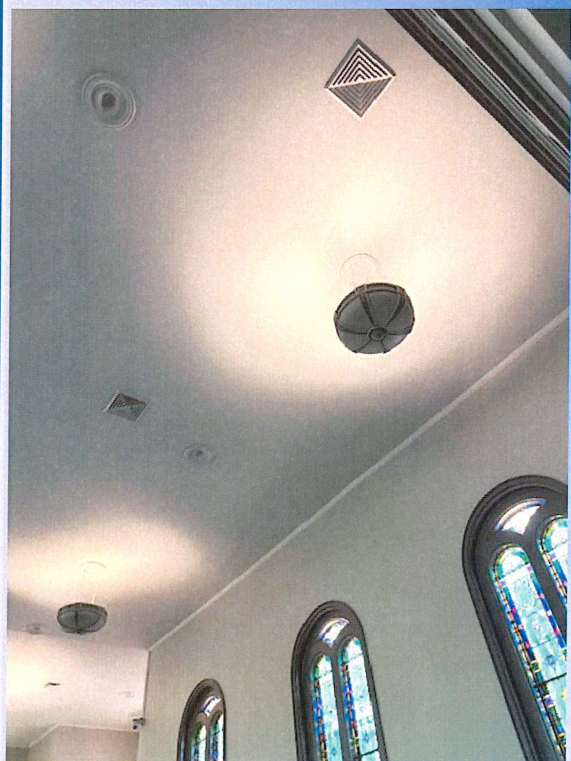
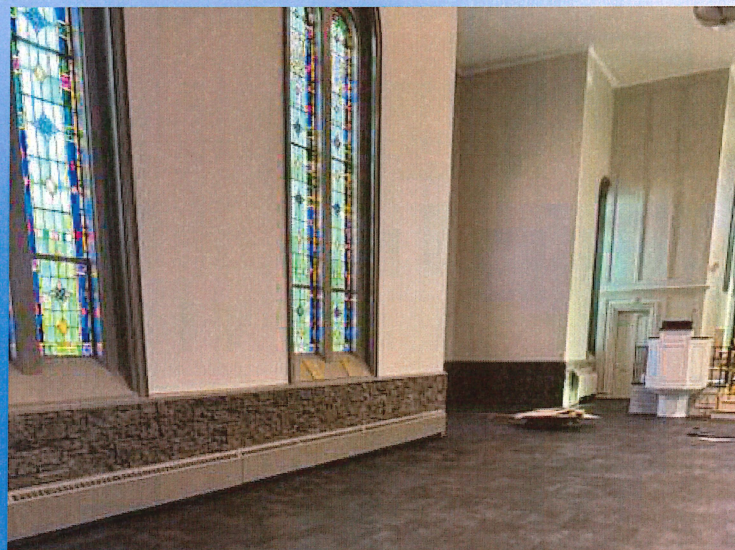


In this eighth installment we are nearing the finish line! October saw the removal of the scaffolding and the floor being installed, and may yet see the return of the pews!



November will see:

- The pews being installed (if it hasn't already occurred),
- The liturgical elements being installed,
- The organ and piano being cleaned and tuned, and
- The AV equipment being set up and tuned again.



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!





**Those who received grants in 2024 have submitted reports  
explaining how the money was used for the benefit of their organization.  
In this, and future newsletters we will publish their reports.**

**Erie Shore Network, Inc.**

Village Offices  
326 East Market Street  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

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Phone 419-626-2006  
Fax 419-626-4013  
Email BrendaBaum@aol.com

September 8, 2025

Grace Episcopal Church  
ATTN. Outreach Committee and Rector  
315 Wayne Street  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

RE: \$1000.00 Grant for Art Supplies 2025

Dear Outreach Committee and Rector:

This letter is to thank you for your support of our Erie Shore Network, Inc. Arts and Crafts Class. I hope you enjoy the video presentation with samples of different projects that we have completed over the past year. The arts and crafts projects have been a vital tool in helping our members to maintain their mental health.

As you know, our membership consists of people who suffer with mental illness. Arts and crafts projects are a wonderful way for members to escape from the stresses of life and the anxiety that many times comes with mental illness. Members concentrate on the projects and focus on creating beautiful projects. Once projects are completed, members are filled with pride and accomplishment. They take their projects home with them upon completion and are reminded every day that they can be productive and creative. This program is good for the soul!

With the grant funds that ESN was awarded by Grace Episcopal Church, we were able to purchase art supplies that members would normally not be able to use. The lanterns, potted plants, jewelry, home decor, upcycling, vine paintings, and outdoor lights were the highlight projects this year! The supplies for these projects can be very costly. It is amazing what power art has to heal, strengthen, and encourage. Members enjoy the projects that they are creating and the socialization that comes with working as a group. There are currently 15-20 members each week for the Arts and Crafts Class. We continue to create art, as well as well-being with the funds we received from Grace Episcopal.

This program is a huge draw for new membership. More and more mental health consumers are finding their way to ESN and taking part in our other activities and programs because of their first visit to Arts and Crafts Class. We are so pleased!

We are hopeful that we can continue to partner with you on future grants to continue to provide this valuable program to our members.

Sincerely,

Brenda C. Baum



## BLESSING OF THE PETS

On **Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** we celebrated the Feast of St. Francis with our annual Blessing of the Animals! From wagging tails to soft purrs, our furry family members received prayers and blessings.

What a beautiful reminder that all of God's creatures are a gift.  
Thank you to everyone who joined us and brought their beloved companions.

