



NEWSLETTER

GRACE
Evangelical Lutheran
Church

September 2026

On the flooding in Ohio—Bishop Dillahunt

Rain, flooding, more rain, more flooding, mucking out, even more rain, even more flooding.

This has been what communities across the Southern Ohio synod have been living over the past few weeks. The amount of rain we have received was welcomed at first, but transitioned quickly to being too much, too fast, and for too long.

Psalms 121 reminds us: "I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord the Maker of heaven and earth".

Our help comes from God through neighbors helping neighbors, communities coming together, resources being gathered and shared, and places of worship opening their doors to provide safe shelter, food, clean water, clothing and supplies for those impacted and displaced by these storms.

Pastor Kristin Santiago (Holy Trinity, New Lexington and New Lebanon, Junction City) has been working with the local school districts to gather backpacks, school supplies, and classroom materials for school districts most heavily impacted. St. Paul (Roseville) has opened its doors – once the mandatory evacuation for the town lifted – to provide food, clean water, pet food, and other supplies to those impacted by the flooding in Roseville, Crooksville, and Corning. And, we know of several congregations across the Southern Ohio Synod who have collected special offerings or are coordinating fundraisers to support the long term recovery work that will be necessary in these communities.

We continue to hold all communities impacted by flooding in prayer. And, we give thanks for the support that is already given, in direct goods and in sending funds to the SOS Disaster Relief Fund. We have already released Synod funding directly to these communities to assist in securing the most needed supplies.

Last week, Pr. Kerrigan, Pr. Grate, and I met with Lutheran Disaster Response, who are accompanying us to assess the best course of action to support the long-term recovery. As we receive updates from these communities and from Lutheran Disaster Response, we will update the Southern Ohio Synod.

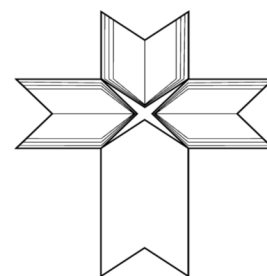
Lutheran Disaster Response and the Synod office request that you do not take items directly to the impacted areas and do not show up to help with clean up.

The most helpful way to support is through monetary donations, through the SOS Disaster Relief Fund or through Lutheran Disaster Response. The recovery from these types of extended disasters is a long-recovery; this is a marathon and not a sprint. Communities will need assistance over time and their needs will change.

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and share God's good news with others with an emphasis on youth and families.



Any singing or special music you'd like to do for the service, please contact Rod or Debbi!



Council has voted that masks are optional to those who are fully vaccinated. Those who are not vaccinated are asked to continue wearing masks.

***IF YOU ARE SICK, PLEASE STAY HOME!**

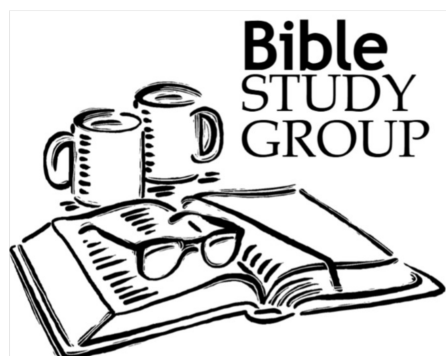
****Should you feel safer continuing to worship virtually, we will continue broadcasting the worship service at 11am, on Facebook.**

The Meals on Wheels is of Fairfield County's primary source for senior services, providing health, connection and independence for those 60years+ in Fairfield County. With the number of seniors steadily increasing in the foreseeable future, they are in desperate need of volunteers. If you are interested in delivering meals and a smile to older residents in our community, please contact the Summer Camp Volunteer Coordinator for Fairfield County, 740-681-5050.

Anna's Office Hours:

My office hours are 8:30-12:30 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

E-mail me at of-
fice@gracecolumbus.com with any suggestions or questions as well.



Join us for Bible Study Group on Sunday mornings before the service at 10:00am.

Just bring your coffee/tea for some interesting discussion before the service!

Kroger will donate a percentage of all purchases to Grace Church! All you need to do is call 1-800-576-4377, or go to Kroger.com and click the community rewards link. To register you will need our account number: QS108. Last year, we earned \$1200 through this program and we can earn up to \$4000. Register yourself, friends and family!

If you have not yet linked your Rewards card to Grace, please do so ASAP, our account number is QS108. Let's see how much we can earn in the next three months.



Southern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop's message continued:

Donations to the Southern Ohio Synod Disaster Fund

These may be received by mail or online donation. Please note on the check or online donation that the funds are for **"SOS Disaster Relief"**. Several of our congregations will receive funds shortly as they care for their neighbors.

Donations to Lutheran Disaster Response
You may donate directly to Lutheran Disaster Response or by sending donations through the Southern Ohio Synod

If you have been impacted by these disasters, please utilize the following resources:

1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has set a National Helpline you can call to receive additional emotional support: (800) 985-5990. This hotline is staffed with trained counselors 24/7.
2. Households that had damage can register their needs for clean-up assistance by calling the Ohio Crisis Cleanup hotline: (740) 207-2397. This platform provides a centralized way for voluntary organizations to "claim" jobs and record when the work is completed.
3. A Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) is open at the William H. Barker Community Center (13047 Karl Brown Road, Roseville, OH 43777) today (August 24th) through Friday, September 4th from 8 AM – 8 PM, Monday through Friday. This is a place for impacted households to connect with multiple service providers in one location, including government agencies and nonprofit organizations. This is intended for residents in Morgan, Muskingum, and Perry counties only.

Continue to hold one another in prayer, Southern Ohio Synod. We are not alone in this recovery. We are Stronger and Better Together, serving our neighbors across the Synod.

In Christ,
+ Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt and the Southern Ohio Synod Staff

WOMEN'S
BIBLE
STUDY



Women's Bible Study will be on September 16th this month at 9:30am.



- * September 15th—Council Meeting
- * September 16th—Women's Bible Study 9:30am
- * September 19th—LMM Breakfast 8:00am @Scramblers
- * September 20th—Newsletter Deadline
- * Quilting Wednesday mornings at 9:30am except the 16th.
- * Yarn Craft Group Thursdays at 1:00pm



What the most effective way to get new members in the church? Invite a friend. 86% of people who join congregations found them by being invited!

Important Announcement

Everything in our church belongs to the church, either purchased or donated the item(s) are the church property. If something is sold, it need council approval. The same thing applies to throwing items away (or worth) that can be donated to the yard sale. Selling or throwing items away, is/are not the decision(s) of one individual. Going forward this is the policy set forth by council.



Mary Lapham

09/19



Prayers and sympathies to the family of Er-
ich Darr who passed on 26 August 2026



Lutheran
Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response

Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual Support (MESS)
Training

November 16 - 18, 2026

Hosted at Prince of Peace (Dublin)

MESS (Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual Support)
training is an interfaith skills-based disaster program
designed for clergy, lay leaders and community re-
sponders - people who may encounter and provide
care for individuals in crisis or distress from conven-
tional disasters or disasters of everyday life. This
skill-based training helps equip the community to
care for one another in times of crisis.

Go to [https://princeofpeacedublin.org/care/mess-
training/](https://princeofpeacedublin.org/care/mess-training/) for more information & to register!

Please review the "Prayer Concerns" list below.
If you have placed someone on the list that no
longer needs prayers, please contact the office.

PRAYER CONCERNS: John Gleason;
Michelle Persinger; Barbara Gardner (Faith
and Eveie Kelley); Elmer Burchett; Bo
McCarty; Rev. Marti Fisher; Emma Pennell
(Mary Lapham's Great Granddaughter); Phil
Dixon; Holly Wilson (Tina Siddle); Charlie
Reed (Judi Levernier's Son); Bobbi Allen;
Ed Thomas; Mark Cantrell; Maria and Sadie
Benedict-Shields; Tiffany Bylow (Heinz Raid-
el); Peggy Shields; Linda Styers; Aaron
McComas (nephew of Debbie Kelley); Kathy
Snyder; Peggy Holtzberger; Bernie Daugh-
erty; Robert Warren; Linda & Larry Frazee;
Barbara Heinlein; Rev. Siggie Benedict-
Shields; Michael Styers, Jr.; Cancer Support
Groups at Mt. Carmel and The James Cancer
Center; and members of our military.~~

Women of the ELCA

Southern Ohio Synod
Women of the ELCA
Biennial Convention

Saturday, October 17, 2026
8:30 AM - 4 PM
Zion (Hamilton)

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/36pvb2xa> for more in-
formation & to register!



God's work. Our hands.



September 13
2026



Yoga
CLASS

- Tuesdays and Thursdays at
10:00am

- Open to cancer survivors and their
relatives



Remember to check out
<https://southernohiosynod.org/news/>
 for the latest goings on around the
 Southern Ohio Synod.

Save the Date Council President and Vice-President Bootcamp

Saturday, September 26th
 10 AM - 2:30 PM

Southern Ohio Synod Office

Join Pastor Abrams and members of the Southern Ohio Synod Congregational Resource Team to learn more about how to faithfully lead your congregations, especially when things aren't easy.

This event is open to all current Congregation Council Presidents & Vice-Presidents, even if you haven't yet attended the regular bootcamp session.

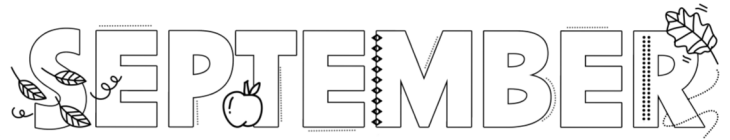
Cost: \$20/person
 Lunch is included.

Registration will be available in August 2026.

LSS is in desperate need of the items listed below. These items cannot be obtained through Mid-Ohio Food Bank and so LSS depends on donations for them. All these items and other food items can be placed into the metal bin marked "LSS". THANK YOU!

- Bar soap
- Deodorant
- Diapers
- Feminine hygiene products
- Gently used cook books
- Laundry detergent
- Shampoo
- Shaving cream/razors
- Toilet paper
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

Questions? See Wanda Lynn



**LUTHERAN
 WORLD RELIEF**

We're in need of Items for PERSONAL CARE KITS:

- ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging
- ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging



**American
 Red Cross**

Red Cross Blood Drive

Date: Tuesday September 22nd

Time: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Sign up:

Online - RedCrossBlood.org

Call - 1-800-RED CROSS

Or use the Blood Donor App on your smart phone

Help us reach our goal of 27 donors!

Donors will receive a \$15 E-gift certificate.

September Worship Assistants

Date	 Assistant Minister		 USHERS	 Altar Guild
September 6	Tina Siddle	Debbie Kelley	Joe Biri	Debbie Kelley, Eveie Kelley
September 13	Debbie Kelley	Tim Bower	Joe Biri	Debbie Kelley, Eveie Kelley
September 20	Tim Bower	Anna Fiehler	Joe Biri	Debbie Kelley, Eveie Kelley
September 27	Anna Fiehler	Rod DuMond	Joe Biri	Debbie Kelley, Eveie Kelley



Did you know that you can receive your monthly newsletter by e-mail? This way you don't have more clutter on your kitchen counter. Help Grace save the additional costs of paper and stamps by signing up to receive your newsletter on line. Just email Anna (office@gracecolumbus.com) and let her know!