OUR VISION: To be a multi-generational, multi-cultural community church following Jesus

OUR MISSION: To reach the lost for Jesus Christ - Reaching our one, as God works through us

This is article #3 in a series of theological insights on grace, from my yet to be published book.

Why does it matter? What's the big deal if our understanding of the English word grace somewhat differs from the meaning of the Greek word charis ($\chi\acute{\alpha}\rho\iota\varsigma$), which we often translate as grace? Why does it matter that Paul mostly uses the word charis ($\chi\acute{\alpha}\rho\iota\varsigma$) to describe an empowering gift while modern writers use the English word grace to describe an overlooking kindness?

It does matter! It matters because our concept of grace in the Bible shapes our perception of key teachings in the New Testament. How we think of grace shapes our understanding of the gospel and the doctrine of justification and how we work out our salvation in the fear of the Lord.

When we see clearly the original meaning of New Testament grace ($\chi \acute{\alpha} \rho \iota \varsigma$), the gospel becomes more Holy Spirit centric. Indeed, when Peter first preached the gospel, his good news message was squarely focused on the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2:38 Peter preached, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Then also, a correct interpretation of grace ($\chi\acute{\alpha}\rho\iota\varsigma$), informs the New Testament teaching of justification by faith. Not only does the New Testament word justification (dikaiosune) refer to an imputed righteousness, it often speaks of an actual, Holy Spirit accomplished righteousness. For example, in Romans 5:17 Paul writes that "those who receive the abundance of grace ($\chi\acute{\alpha}\rho\iota\varsigma$) and the free gift of righteousness (dikaiosune) [shall] reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ."

Finally, when we rightly define New Testament grace ($\chi\acute{\alpha}\rho\iota\varsigma$), we rediscover a very New Testament fear of the Lord. Instead of removing consequences, grace itself is very consequential. If we quench the Holy Spirit we will suffer great loss. As Hebrews 2:3 says, "How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?" Not only does grace "teach us to say no to ungodliness" (Titus 2:12), it gives us reason to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12).

Stay tuned. In the next installments of these newsletter articles, we'll look more closely at these implications of grace. It really does matter how we define grace.

Paston Tom

PRAYERS & PRAISES FOR NOVEMBER 2025

Pray for Pastor Tom, Landon, Phyllis Eastman, Joyce Sinkiewicz, Maggie Sales, Dave Meyer, Joahan, Cecilia Stooksbury, Carl Couwenhoven, John Calcaterra, Gary Eastman, Sheila Henry, Paulina Leeney's mother, Johnny Rattray.

Keep in prayer the Awana leaders, kids, helpers, cooking staff. Keep in prayer the families, students and staff at the Gary Schools. Keep in prayer: Gretna Szymanski & Mary Keller.

Remember these servicemen: Col. Scott Diehl & SSG Charles Eastman.

Psalms 62:8 "Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us."





Christmas Craft Show Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 13, 2025 9:00am —2:00pm

Ross Community Reformed Church Fellowship Hall

3900 West 41st Ave. Gary, IN 46408

REMINDERS

NOVEMBER 2

9:30 AM Worship—Pastor Tom

NOVEMBER 9

9:30 AM Worship – Pastor Tom

NOVEMBER 16

9:30 AM Worship—Pastor Tom Mission Fund

NOVEMBER 23

9:30 AM Worship — Pastor Tom

Congregational Meeting

NOVEMBER 26

7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Hymn Sing

NOVEMBER 30

9:30AM Worship—Pastor Tom

UPCOMING

Thanksgiving Baskets
We are accepting donations of money and canned goods until Nov. 24th.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 1 Maya Cheeseman

Nov. 6 Monica Eriks

Nov. 11 Alice Gerbers

Nov. 13 Homar Araujo

Nov. 13 Linda Bultema

Nov. 13 Linda Edge

Nov. 13 Lillian Hernandez

Nov. 16 Aaron Cabrera

Nov. 17 Moses McCoy

Nov. 20 Kevin Cheeseman

Nov. 22 Odis Leeney

Nov. 23 Brian Cummins



YOUR 2025 DEACONS AND ELDERS

Zone 1: Nancy Couwenhoven(D) Monica Eriks (E)

Zone 2: Cindy Lovall (D) Kevin Cheeseman (E) **Zone 3:** Shelli Cavell (D) Maleeta Yonker (E)

Zone 4: Nikole Eriks (D) Keith Eriks (E)

Zone 5: Angel Hernandez (D) Jonathan Evans (E)

Zone 6: Sheryl Araujo (D) Carolyn Lohman (E)

CONSISTORY MEETING for Elders and Deacons

November 11 7PM

If you would like to request baptism, become a member or make profession of faith in Christ please call the church office at 219-980-0200 or talk with Pastor Tom.

Financial Updates / September 2025

Monthly general fund expenses \$12,783.65 Monthly offerings for August \$12,486.66 General Fund Shortage \$296.99

Office Hours Georgette will be in the Office

Mon. Tues, Wed. & Fri. 9-12.

Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Office closed

Plastic Bags

Our food pantry is in need of your plastic grocery bags. Please drop them off in Georgette's office. Thank You



MENU

Nov. 5 Chili

Nov. 12 Sausage, Potato & Green beans

Nov. 19 Turkey & Fixins



October 2025

Dear Ross Community Church,

In a rural village, a well respected judge and his wife were known for their hostility toward Christians.

When a pastor walked past their home, the wife would come out **shouting-sometimes even throwing rocks.** They wanted nothing to do with Christians.

But one day, the judge overheard a Talking Bible playing in Gamo, his own language—and **something began to change.**

The pastor noticed his curiosity and lent him a Talking Bible, promising to return and see how God's word might speak to his heart.

Weeks later, the pastor came back—and found the man still listening intently. "I could see God was already at work," the pastor said. "The Talking Bible opened his heart before I ever spoke a word."

At first, the judge thought following Jesus meant separating from his community. But the pastor and team gently explained it was about turning away from sin and walking in truth and freedom—not isolation.

Two months later, he gave his life to Jesus. He stood in a local church and declared: "The Talking Bible taught me everything. I want to be one of you. Please teach me more." Even his wife—who once shouted and threw rocks at us to keep us away and avoided all contact—had been secretly listening when no one was watching, She, too, came to faith.

She said "Listening to the Talking Bible led me to Christ. **He changed everything.** The fear, the sickness; the Darkness—it's all gone. Now our home is filled with peace. "God's Word filled my heart and set my mind free."

She shared how both she and her husband had once suffered from sickness and spiritual oppression. But after hearing the Word of God and trusting Christ, their home was transformed.

This is the power of God's Word—when people can actually hear it.

Many families like this one cannot read and may never step inside a church. But through the Talking Bible, they are **encountering the life-changing truth of Jesus.**

Because of your faithful support, Talking Bibles are reaching those who need God's Word most—transforming lives every day. Thank you for continuing to share the Gospel and helping people hear about Jesus for the very first time.

With gratitude,

Paul D. Hoekstra President, Talking Bibles International

THANKSGIVING BASKETS 2025

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. We are in need of **Donations of Groceries and Money** to make up baskets for Thanksgiving dinners as well as staples that will help for some time after the holiday.

Please bring all non-perishable donations to church from now until **November 24th.** There will be a table set up by the mailboxes for your donations starting **October 13th**. All monetary donations can be made by submitting your donation and designating it for **Thanksgiving** Baskets.

We update our list of those who need a basket every year, please submit the following information:

Name

Address

Phone number or some way they can be contacted.

How many adults / juniors

How many babies

Would you like to deliver the basket, have us deliver it, or will they pick it up?

All of the above information is very important!!!

A contact number must be included!!!

Last day to submit names will be Sunday November 23rd. 11:00am

Volunteers will be needed on **Monday**, **November 24th**, to help put the baskets together and to deliver them starting at 9:00a.m

Baskets will be ready by 10:00am. If they are to be picked up, please come at that time.

Any questions or names can be given to Jonathan Evans.

Thank You.



November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						I
9:30 Worship Pastor Tom Change your clocks	3	4 Crochet Group I:30-3:30	5 Dinner 5:50 Awana 6:30	6 Food Pantry 11:30-12:00	7	8
9:30 Worship Pastor Tom	10	Crochet Group 1:30-3:30 BSF 6:55 Consistory 7PM	12 Dinner 5:50 Awana 6:30	Food Pantry 11:30-12:00	14	15
9:30 Worship Pastor Tom Mission Sunday	17	Crochet Group 1:30-330 BSF 6:55	19 Dinner 5:50 Awana 6:30	20 Food Pantry 11:30-12:00	21	22
9:30 Worship Pastor Tom Congregational Meeting	24 Assemble & Distribute Baskets 9:00AM	25 Crochet Group 1:30-3:30 BSF 6:55	26 Thanksgiving Eve Hymn Sing 7:00PM	2.7 Happy Thanksgiving	28	29
9:30 Worship Pastor Tom			Veteran: Honoring Al	s Day	II/II Veterans Day	