

Grace Messenger

June 2018

**“Therefore go and
make disciples of all
nations”**

Matthew 28:19

Where Do I Begin?

Summer Worship

Jesus Christ has given his earthly Church the commission to *'make disciples of all nations'*, as we read in Matthew 28: 16-20. We often sing that great hymn of the Church, *"I love to tell the story,"* but many readily admit they are not exactly sure how to do this or where to begin. Easier 'sung' than done! Our pastors will lead us in a 10 week worship series through which all will become better equipped and more confident in sharing the love of Jesus with others. We will worship at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary on Thursday evenings, beginning June 7th and concluding August 9th. If you consider yourself very capable and actively engaged in discipling the people who are in your network of relationships, perhaps this worship series is not for you. But, for the vast majority of people I have the privilege of speaking with, timidity can be replaced with courage and concern replaced with confidence. Our pastors will lead us each Thursday in a 30-minute conversation focusing on 10 different themes, including: "Intentionality: Think Big! Start Small!", "Building Authentic Friendships", and "Asking Questions, Telling Stories". Bring your Bibles to worship this summer! - Pastor Powell

One God? Many gods?

Adult Sunday School June 3—July 8

Our postmodern culture is marked by a distinctive multicultural atmosphere and a trend toward *extreme toleration*, including the affirmation of all expressions of religion and personal spirituality. Such conditions represent both a challenge and an opportunity for Bible-believing Christians. Beginning on June 3rd, Pastor Powell will convene a 6-week adult Sunday school class designed to clarify the basic teachings of Christianity...the central doctrines of Lutheranism...and, then, to contrast Christianity/Lutheranism to Islam, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and Satanism. As always, bring your Bibles to Sunday school at Grace.





June 10 10:45 a.m.

Did you know that we have 61 Grace members who are *80 and Up*, with 14 of these members 90 and older? This is remarkable! These dear folks, for several reasons, are a significant demographic of our congregation and we are scheduling an opportunity to gratefully say so. Every Grace member *80 and Up* has been invited to attend our 10:45 a.m. worship on Sunday, June 10, 2018. We will introduce them, express our appreciation for them, and pray over them. We will, then, provide a light luncheon for these special folks immediately following worship that day. Please plan to be present in worship at Grace on June 10th.

New Member's Class

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church continues to grow, by God, in most every definition of this term. We are, truly, 'growing in Grace.' Everyone who is interested in learning more about our congregation, denomination, and mission is invited to join Pastors Powell and Brodbeck on Sunday, June 3rd from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Attending this class does not obligate a person to join, but, rather, is intended to help each person make a prayerfully, informed decision about Church membership. The afternoon will be informal and informative. Please call our Grace office, 399-6257, to let us know you plan to attend.

Appreciating Our Grace Staff

Our congregation has long been served by capable and committed staff members. This present time is no exception. We will acknowledge our Grace staff during worship on Sunday, June 3rd and share in a fellowship in their honor at 10:15 a.m. that same morning. You are encouraged to be present in worship at Grace that morning and to join us in expressing our appreciation to God and to the staff members God has brought together at Grace.

Senior Pastor Call Committee

God has certainly assembled an outstanding Call Committee to follow Him and guide our congregation toward discerning who will be our next Senior Pastor. Our Call Committee members are: Mark Grimes, Matt Rugh, Michelle Kouse, Ginger Hennig, Tom O'Neal, Ty Craddock (youth member), and Sandy Thompson (Grace Council President). During our worship on Sunday, June 17, 2018, we will commission our Call Committee as they begin their work this summer with personal time in God's Word and prayer. They will first meet together on Thursday, September 20, 2018. Please begin, or continue, praying for these fellow Grace members as they undertake this significant responsibility.

Financial Stewardship

'Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...' Hebrews 1:1-2

Among the many clear and consistent truths of Holy Scripture is this: God speaks! God is a God of communication and community and communion. God speaks and communicates through the nature that is all around us, the prophets and fellow believers who proceeded, and through His Only Begotten Son sent to and for us.

Based upon this verifiable truth, our Financial Stewardship Team has chosen for its 2018 theme: **"Lord, Speak to Us!"** The various members of our Team will be writing/submitting Messenger articles for the remaining months of this year, conveying this wonderful theme. We, individually and as a congregation, do well to be attentive to what God endeavors to speak to us day to day to day. Let's recall Jesus' words, as recorded in Matthew 7:24 *'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock.'*

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, enable us to listen for what you want us to hear. Make us attentive to your holy Word and Holy Spirit. Amidst the cacophony of 'voices' crying out for our attention and allegiance, help us to hear your voice...to obey and follow what we hear. Help us to build our lives, and this congregation, *'upon the rock'*. In Jesus' name...Amen.
-Pastor Powell

The Yellow Springs Brass Quintet Oromo Church Benefit Concert

The Yellow Springs Brass Quintet presented a Sunday afternoon concert at Grace on May 6 with a love offering going to the Oromo Church "fund". Over fifty attended the afternoon of beautiful music and arrangements. The offering total for the concert was \$677. Thank you!

Grace Disaster Relief Fund Helping Hurricane Harvey Victims

Hurricane Harvey made landfall on August 25, 2017, devastating millions on the Gulf Coast of Texas. NALC Disaster Response and NALC congregations have been providing emergency relief for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey, Irma, and Maria ever since.

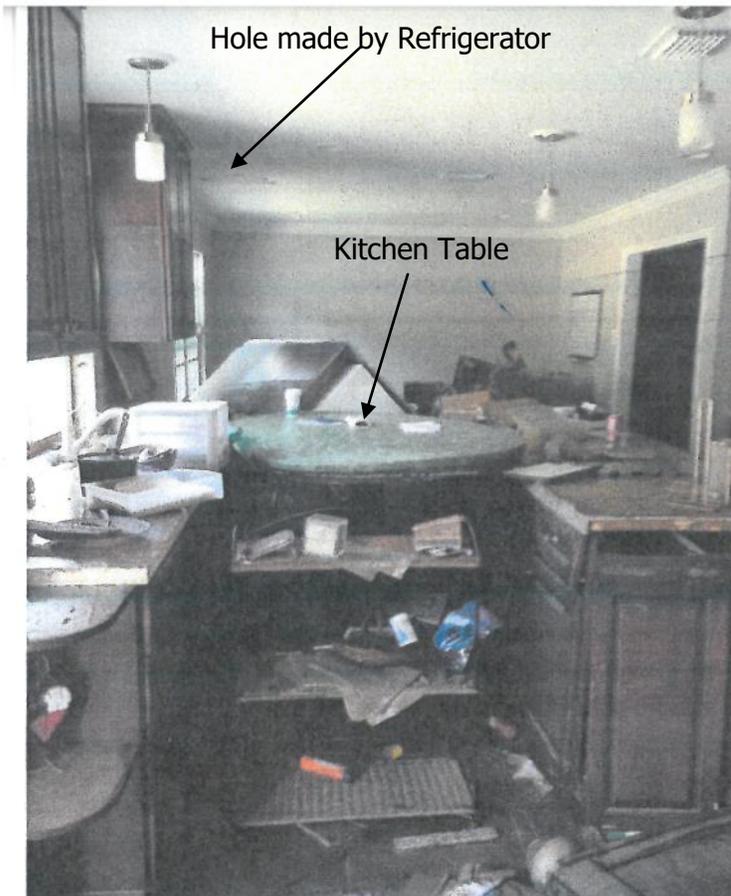
In addition to disaster care kits and monetary donations to NALC Disaster Response, Grace collected funds especially for the extended family members of Grace. The following thank you was received in January from Ann Howell, niece of Grace member, Pat Clouse.

To Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Last month we received your generous check regarding our flooded house in Houston, Texas. We were surprised and touched to receive support from so far away. We are still working to get back to normal and are living in temporary housing. Your money has gone toward expenses such as replacing household goods, we lost everything on our first floor. The one bright spot in this disaster has been the generosity we have gotten from friends and strangers. Thank you for your help!
-Ann, Tim, Ben(16), and Robbie(14) Howell



Howell family's Houston home flooded during Hurricane Harvey and the subsequent dam releases. We had almost 7 feet of water for two weeks. Our two cars are in this picture in our driveway on the left side of the house.



This is our kitchen after the water receded. Our kitchen table is suspended from the counters in the kitchen. In the far back of the picture you can see the corner of our refrigerator that was lifted up high enough to put a hole in the ceiling before it fell over.

Projector Needed

Mary Ellen Fulmer, friend of mine and many...world-traveler...long-time member of Grace...passed forward in November of 2017. Among the many items she left for others to enjoy is a carousel [circular] slide tray of her 1959 trip to The Holy Land. Well, 1959 was quite some time ago and the carousel projector has pretty much gone 'the way of the dinosaurs'. Hoping to view the slides of Mary Ellen's trip, I am asking to borrow a carousel projector if any of our Grace family might have one. There are some 100 slides, carefully organized, and it will be a shame if they can't be viewed. Just let me know if you have a projector to briefly loan to me. If so, you're welcome to watch the 'slide show' with me. -Pastor Powell



**Saturday, July 14 and Sunday, July 15, 2018
1-6 p.m.**

The Grace Community Vegetable Garden has been selected to be on the WASSO garden tour this year! Please plan to attend this fundraiser to help the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. Contact Terry Fredrich for more information, 937-215-9400.



HAVE A (SNOW) BALL AT VBS THIS SUMMER!

Register online at [www. Grace-nalc.org](http://www.Grace-nalc.org) or call the church office, 399-6257.

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