

# Grace Messenger

July 2019



**Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)**

## The Great Cloud of Witnesses

As you walk down the hallway from the Grace front desk to my office on the corner, you will pass ten portraits. Nine of those are on your right. Each is a portrait of someone who served as a pastor of this congregation. Their terms vary, ranging from two to 25 years. They are portraits of men I have never met and know only from the stories I've heard about them.

As I write these words, the left side of the hallway holds a single portrait: Pastor Beverly DeBord. Her picture will soon be joined by one of Pastor Daniel Powell. Both of these individuals are treasured colleagues with whom I have served and whose ministry I have highly valued.

In the thirty days since the Grace congregation voted overwhelmingly to call me as your next Senior Pastor, I've begun to look at those portraits more closely and with greater reflection on the ministry each rendered to this church. These are no longer just "people on a wall," people known to history. They are now my predecessors. They are the pastors upon whose shoulders I stand. They are the pastors who have laid a foundation on which I have been called to build. They are for me what the writer of Hebrews calls "the great cloud of witnesses."

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. (Hebrews 12:1)*

I picture these eleven pastors cheering me on, and cheering this congregation on, as together we run the race marked out for us. They invested their time and energies to nurture the people of this congregation and community. Their God-honoring service prepared this congregation for the very moment of transition we are currently experiencing. Keeping with the writer's image of a relay race, these portraits on the wall have handed us the baton. It is now our turn to run.

It's the same race. The race they ran is the one we are called to run. From Pastor Flack, the founding pastor, through Pastor Powell, our most recent senior pastor, our calling remains the same. The mission hasn't changed.

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)*

More frequently as I have walked the hall, I've been praying these words:

*Thank You, Lord, for those who have faithfully run the race over the past 104 years, loving this congregation and preparing us for this moment. Help us to fix our eyes on Jesus, and run well. Amen.*

Let this be our prayer in the months and years ahead. Blessings! Pastor Tom

# Pastoral Updates

## Ask Me Anything

Here are answers to questions I've received. As always, you can ask me anything. I will respond to the best of my ability.

### **What should we call you now that you are our Senior Pastor?**

Please feel free to call me whatever you are comfortable with: Tom, Pastor Tom, Pastor Brodbeck. I honestly don't have a preference and I will answer to each of them. Since I have been one of your pastors for the last four years, you probably have already settled on something. If I haven't objected before now, I won't be objecting in the future.

### **What changes do you plan on making?**

I don't have any immediate plans for significant changes. These first few months in this new role will be spent listening mostly. I will be asking a lot of questions about how we feel about and approach every area of ministry. I'm counting on receiving honest feedback to the questions I ask, and I'm inviting feedback even if you don't specifically get asked a question. My door is wide open. Come and talk to me!

### **Which day of the week will be your day off?**

My plan is to take Saturdays off, just as I have been doing for the eight years I've had an office in this hallway. That works best for me since my wife (Karen) works through the week. It gives us a day off together. Saturdays often don't work for a pastor's schedule though. Weddings, for example, are usually Saturday events, as are denominational meetings and events. When Saturdays are otherwise booked, I'll take either Friday or the following Monday off.

### **Are we allowed to call you at home or drop by the office unannounced?**

Absolutely! My home phone number and cell phone number are readily available. If you've ever received an email from me you will find them below my signature. You can also pick up one of my business cards from the Welcome Center. If your call comes at a time that is not good for me to talk, I hope you will grant me the courtesy of scheduling another time soon. My office door generally stays open. That is meant to be viewed as an invitation to talk. Scheduled appointments are preferred so that I'm not caught in another meeting or engrossed in a specific project. However, you should always feel free to drop by. My reputation is that I am very approachable and accessible, and I intend to maintain that.

-Pastor Tom Brodbeck

## Call Committee Update

Now that Pastor Tom Brodbeck has officially accepted the call to serve as the next Senior Pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, our Call Committee has shifted its focus to prayerfully discerning whom God has selected as Grace's next Associate Pastor.

We are grateful that all members of the Senior Pastor Call Committee – Ty Craddock, Mark Grimes, Ginger Hennig, Michelle Kouse, Jane Kreider, Tom O'Neal, Matt Rugh, Maxine Shroyer, Sandy Thompson and Craig Witker – have committed to continuing to serve as members of the Associate Pastor Call Committee. We are honored and humbled by the privilege to serve Grace in this role.

The Associate Pastor Call Committee gathered for the first time on Thursday, May 30. Our meeting's primary objective was to review Grace's previously prepared Congregational Profile. We invited Pastor Brodbeck to join our discussions, knowing that he would have important and valuable input. We made appropriate changes to the Congregational Profile since it would now be directed to potential candidates for the Associate Pastor position.

The modified document has since been submitted to the office of Pastor David Wendel, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Ecumenism within the NALC. Grace's newly vacant position is now being publicized throughout the NALC, and the Congregational Profile will be available to all persons praying about pursuing a possible call as our next Associate Pastor.

Our committee will begin meeting again once we start to receive Pastoral Profiles from interested candidates. In the meantime, we join all of you in prayer, asking that God show us whom He has selected as the next partner in ministry for Pastor Brodbeck and our entire congregation.

-Mark Grimes and Matt Rugh, Co-Chairs

# Youth News



Blessings to this group of Grace sophomores who took part in the Affirmation of Baptism Rite on June 9, 2019, another important step in their life long Faith Journey!

## Commissioning to Public Discipleship

The purpose of the "Commissioning to Public Discipleship" rite is to acknowledge and celebrate those graduating seniors who are publicly stating their intentions to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in their lives after high school. By choosing to participate in this rite, our graduates are demonstrating that they intend to continue growing closer to Jesus by gathering regularly with a Christian congregation to worship, spending quality time alone with their bible studies, to spend time in prayer, and going out from the congregation to love God and obey His commands. As is true for all of us, the Faith Journey of these young adults is far from over. We encourage Grace members to join together in prayers for calm during stressful times, strength when tested, and the acceptance of the continuous presence of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as they move forward with their lives.

## Vacation Bible School

Grace will once again host Vacation Bible School on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> with "Yee Haw: Celebrating God's Greatest Gift." The participating kids (4 years old through 4<sup>th</sup> grade) will go on a frontier adventure where they'll discover that God gives good gifts. Our supervising kids (5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) and adults will lead/teach team building games, cool Bible songs, and multi-sensory Bible adventures that will help faith flow into real life. On Monday and Tuesday evening, from 6:00-8:30, we'll complete schedules that include: "Moo-sic & More" and "Closing Corral" where Matt gets to play the role of Rawhide McSpur, the gung-ho cowboy who likes to dance to VBS tunes and tell about the great things God does for us; "Projects With a Purpose" where the kids will create gifts that we will share at local nursing homes; "Saddle Up Sports", the athletic side of VBS; and "Bible Adventures" where Bible Stories come alive. Wednesday night will feature a family cookout where all the families of our participants are invited to Grace for food and fellowship, wrapped up by a "Celebration" of what the kids learn at VBS. It promises to be another fun few days as we transform the church into a Western Frontier...keep an eye out for upcoming information on how you can be involved. YEE-HAW!



# Church News

## Financial Stewardship

One of the basics of good financial stewardship is charitable giving. You don't have to get out your checkbook (or, more likely, use your credit card) **to be generous** however. It's possible for you to be savvy in your financial giving by providing the gift of stock shares.

When you give investments, you can deduct the full value of the asset on your taxes, and the charity gets the full benefit, as well, since the recipient doesn't have to pay taxes on the gains if it decides to sell.

### **Here are some ways you can provide financial support:**

- ◆ Cash and checks
- ◆ Automatic bank withdrawal
- ◆ Electronic Check/Online giving
- ◆ Appreciated securities, real estate and personal property
- ◆ Gifts of endowment
- ◆ Charitable gift annuities
- ◆ Life estates
- ◆ Charitable trusts
- ◆ Retirement accounts
- ◆ Life insurance
- ◆ Wills

## Letting Our Light Shine for the Glory of God

We have been created by God in His image. He has blessed us all with special gifts. As disciples of Christ, we must cultivate and use our gifts to benefit others and to glorify God. The discovery of my gifts has been a journey in growing closer to God. It has been a complicated task, not understanding what I have been given, and what exactly I should do with these gifts.

One of the barriers that has been the hardest to overcome is the fear of failure. But what I am reminded of through many prayers, as I try to discern if I should or shouldn't continue with something, is that I am human and do make mistakes. Faith in God has given me clarity and peace to overcome my fears and to use my gifts wherever God leads me. I am truly blessed!

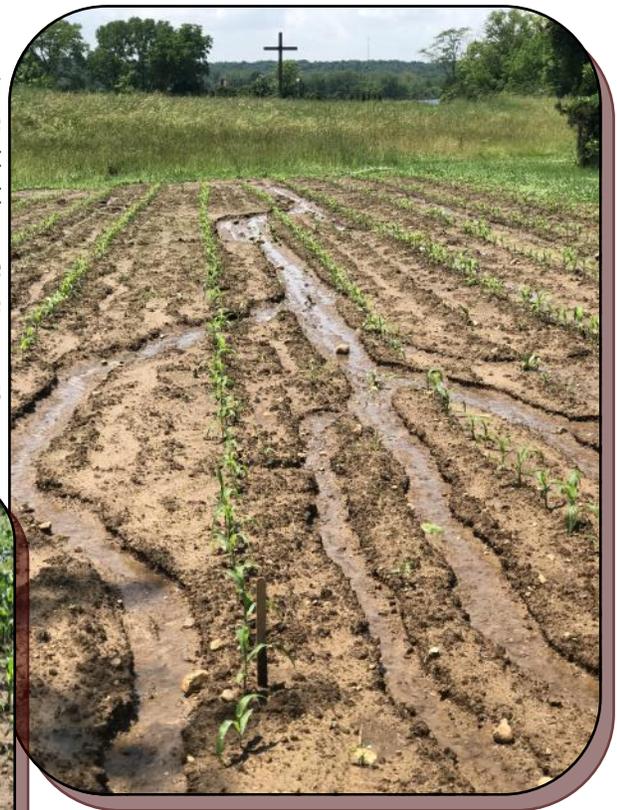
- Cathy Zernechel

## Grace Garden Update

This year the garden is having a slow start and is going to be only about 2/3's the size of the gardens for last few years. This is because of the challenge of getting it planted and planting too late is not effective. This means we are unlikely to have as much produce as last year and certainly not the variety of things we have had in the past. But Jerry and I know that the three most popular vegetables at the harvest table are SWEET CORN, TOMATOES, and GREEN BEANS. We have made sure we will have the "the big three."

We hope the congregation will be understanding of our situation this year. Please keep in mind that its financial support will be with spirit in our "outreach" mission.

-Terry Fredrich



## Grace Endowment Fund

*"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."* Matthew 5:16

Our Endowment Fund furthers the work of God's kingdom during our lifetime and beyond. It is an investment in Grace's ministries for generations to come! The Fund is God's way of sharing our blessings with others as we glorify Him through our living legacy of outreach ministries and programs. It represents a collection of contributions made throughout the years that are never fully spent, but from which a portion of the earnings are distributed each year in June.

The year-end balance of the Endowment Fund provides dollars for the following year's distribution. The Fund is invested through, and in partnership with, The Springfield Foundation. The annual distribution of funds is made available for ministry opportunities which are not currently in Grace's Ministry Plan. Only the account's earnings are spent, which is why we say that your gift to the Grace Endowment Fund lasts forever.

This year, the Endowment Committee received nine proposals for review and funding consideration. One proposal was withdrawn due to a scheduling conflict for Stephen Ministry training. The remaining eight proposals were discussed, evaluated and funded. All proposals received either full or partial funding. Those partially funded projects may be considered for line item insertion into the 2020 annual budget. This year, the Committee funded a variety of ministry areas including the Women of Grace Retreat, Property Maintenance/Landscaping, Youth Programs, Worship and Music Upgrades, Altar Care Upgrades, Ministry Expansion/Children's Play Area and Charity Guild Pillows. Throughout the annual distribution process, the Committee remained mindful of Mary Ellen Fulmer's recent bequest to the Congregation and the Endowment Fund.

Contributions to the Fund may be made through memorial contributions, expressions of love at Christmas, Easter or Mother's Day, special occasions, such as a birthday or wedding anniversary, a "thanks-giving" contribution, designating the Fund in your will or naming the Fund as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy. Your prayerful consideration to support the Endowment Fund will ensure our congregational commitment to move our ministries and vision forward to the glory of God!

-Submitted by Carol Carpenter of the Endowment Committee

## Lay Ministry Storytime

"Storytime" is coming to you in September with **live** storytime characters. Join us during the 9:15 am Sunday School hour on September 15<sup>th</sup> to hear the stories these characters have to share.

### Lay Ministry Spotlight:

#### Hanging of the Greens

I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to serve as the coordinator of the "Hanging of the Greens", an annual event scheduled to decorate our church for the Advent season. A college degree in Interior Design and Decorating led me to give of my time and talent to this very special ministry, while working with a hard-working and dedicated team of volunteers. Together, we create an environment of warmth and joy in celebration of the Christmas spirit that lights up the hearts of our members and visitor's alike. This ministry has built lasting friendships while using the perfect way to glorify God for the gracious gift he has given to me. In humble thanks!

-Victoria Barnes

### July App tidbit – Connections and Volunteering at Your Fingertips

Want to volunteer for a recurring church ministry? Are you available to fill a short notice volunteer need? You can do both easily on the Grace App. Check out the "Serve" feature. It gives details for each ministry area and offers quick forms for you to sign up. There is also a "Short Notice Volunteer Opportunities" tab that is updated often with current needs. Under the "Connect" feature you will find the Grace Sign-Up Central and easy forms to make Prayer Requests, ask for New Member information, request a Wedding, or even a Baptism. The app makes it easy for you contact the church quickly and easily. Each time you fill out a request on the app an email is sent to the staff for them to take action.

If you have not already downloaded the app, it is available in both the Google Play and Apple store. Search for "Grace Evangelical Lutheran, Ohio." You should recognize our logo. Once you download, be sure that you set up your profile, select the chat groups that you want to join under "Connect – Small Group Chat – Interests." Browse the app to see all that it has to offer.

## Expressions of Gratitude

- How Can We Say Thanks?  
By God, we're going to try! As Jill and I awaken on this Monday, June 17, 2019, we are experiencing an unprecedented mixture of emotions. There is the loss of something that has helped define us, namely, my ministry with and through Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. At one and the same time, our sense of loss is overwhelmed by our experience of joy and gratitude. Grace will always contribute to how we define ourselves. My discerned retirement lacks the power to rob us of this. Thanks be to God! If I/we were to begin listing all the people who made yesterday, June 16th possible, the list would be woefully incomplete and names would unintentionally be omitted. So, to our Grace staff, our Grace Council, the Retirement Team, the 500+ people who came to worship and the similar number of people who remained for lunch and the program, the City of Springfield and the Clark County representatives, our children, our Grace ` choir, our men's Bible study groups, the many people who served as presenters, Pastor Beverly DeBord, Pastor Tom Brodbeck, and the legion of behind-the-scene-workers, and our congregation... Jill and I veritably shout: THANK YOU!  
In conclusion, my ministry with you concluded as it began...on Father's Day to the honor and glory of our heavenly Father who brought and kept us together all these years. We covet your prayers and assure you of ours. You are a grand congregation and, please, never forget it! As fellow disciples, Jill and I say: "See you later!"  
-Pastor and Jill Powell
- I want to thank everyone who sent cards, thoughts and prayers in the recent months while infections moved from one place to another. They meant so much to me. It is great to be back in my Grace Home. -Kris Culp
- Dear Grace Family,  
You helped me through a difficult winter and an even more difficult spring thanks to two falls in May. There was no injury in the fall at church on May 4. The arrival of the fire truck and the assistance of one of Springfield's finest fire fighters was just coincidence. The more recent fall at home also resulted in no injury. The more things piled up on me, the more you reached out with care and concern: encouraging words in your cards, notes, and calls; transportation (whenever needed); nourishing food (oh, those homemade soups!) and even a little chocolate (brownies). Thank you, my wonderful Grace family. With all my heart (and attachments like the pacemaker, etc.). -Barbara Gentile
- We Thank You for all the prayers, cards and meals donated during Bonita's surgery on May 18. Our Grace Family is always so generous, and it was a huge help. May our Lord Bless you in return for your Caring and Love. -Bonita and David Holl

# July Events

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 1801 St. Paris Pike. Springfield, OH 45504

937.399.6257 [www.grace-nalc.org](http://www.grace-nalc.org)

## Monday, July 1

1:00 pm Stephen Ministry  
6:00 pm Women's Bible Study

## Tuesday, July 2

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/  
office closed

## Wednesday, July 3

## Thursday, July 4

**Grace Office Closed**  
**Happy 4th of July**

## Friday, July 5

**Grace Office Closed**

## Saturday, July 6

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Sunday, July 7

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:45 am Contemporary Worship

## Monday, July 8

## Tuesday, July 9

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/  
office closed  
6:00 pm Executive Committee

## Wednesday, July 10

## Thursday, July 11

9:00 am Service Quilter's Guild  
11:00 am Adult Bible Study

## Friday, July 12

## Saturday, July 13

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Sunday, July 14

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:00 am *Worship at  
Springfield Manor*  
10:15 am Fellowship  
10:45 am Worship/Receiving New Members  
12:15 pm Financial Stewardship

## Monday, July 15

2:00 pm Stephen Ministry

## Tuesday, July 16

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/  
office closed  
7:00 pm Grace Council

## Wednesday, July 17

## Thursday, July 18

11:00 am Adult Bible Study  
6:00 pm Prayer Support Team

## Friday, July 19

## Saturday, July 20

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Sunday, July 21

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:15 am Fellowship  
10:45 am Worship

## Monday, July 22

5:00 pm Stephen Ministry  
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry CE

## Tuesday, July 23

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/  
office closed

## Wednesday, July 24

## Thursday, July 25

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

## Friday, July 26

## Saturday, July 27

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
9:00 am Service Quilter's Guild Modern  
Quilting Bee

## Sunday, July 28

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:15 am Fellowship  
10:45 am Worship/Commissioning to  
Public Discipleship

## Monday, July 29

6:00 pm Grace VBS

## Tuesday, July 30

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/  
office closed  
6:00 pm Grace VBS

## Wednesday, July 31

6:00 pm Grace VBS

## Christmas in July

Christmas in July will be here soon! Volunteers should bring 4 dozen cookies to the church. If you can deliver cookies to our Grace homebound members the 3rd week in July please let MaryBeth Stelzer know. Thank you for supporting this important ministry. Please call the church for more information, 399-6257.

## Service Quilt Guild Sew-a-thon July 27

The Service Quilt Guild is planning another Sew-a-thon to be held on July 27. The event this time is a Modern Quilting Bee. The quilts completed at this event, along with others already completed will be sent to disaster relief at Lutheran World Relief and NALC disaster relief in the United States.

If you would like to volunteer or participate, please sign up at Sign Up Central in the Sunday bulletin. For more information please call the church, 399-6257.



# Grace Vacation Bible School

July 29-31

6:00-8:30 PM

Register online or call the church office, 937-399-6257

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Springfield, OH  
Permit #158

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1801 St. Paris Pike  
Springfield, OH 45504

