

# Grace Messenger

August 2019

## Pastor's Reflections

When I first joined the Grace staff in April 2011, my job title was Discipleship Coordinator. I was charged with two primary tasks. First, I was responsible for helping people who were new to Grace "connect" or "assimilate" into this church family. Second, I was to work with the various outreach ministries in the community to cultivate relationships that enabled those in our church to become involved in ways that surpassed simply "praying and giving money."

Before I even had a chance to settle in, I was given my first assignment. "You need to write an introduction for the Time and Talent booklet. We are going to print it after lunch." And off we went! Within minutes, my day was a flurry of activity.

Somewhere in those first hours someone on the staff reassured me "Don't worry. Things will slow down when summer comes." I learned later this was a running gag for my new colleagues. Things never slow down. Not here. The completion of one project only means you have more time to devote to the next project, which is already approaching its own deadline.

And so it continues. The work and ministry of this congregation did not slow down one bit when our recent transition in the senior pastor position occurred. Within the first two weeks, I had a wedding, a baptism, a funeral, a new members' class. I met with another couple to begin planning their fall wedding. We also sent out 24 people on a weeklong mission trip and launched a 10- week Sunday School and worship series entitled "Joining Jesus on His Mission."

Today, as I write these words, the cabinets for our kitchen remodeling project have been delivered, the major upgrade on the sanctuary sound system (funded by the Endowment committee and some private donations) is underway, and the replacement of two of our original HVAC units is set to begin. And last week, we received a generous and significant private contribution toward our debt reduction campaign.

There is indeed a sense of "hurriedness" to our activity here at Grace because there is a vital sense of urgency about our mission. We are not busy doing "stuff." Our flurry is all focused on doing what God has called us (this congregation) to do. That is descriptive of every vibrant, healthy congregation, and Grace is certainly no exception.

You see, as Christians we know that Jesus is coming soon. It may well happen in your lifetime. If you truly believe that, there is an automatic urgency that accompanies what He has called His followers to do. Even if He chooses to delay His return, there have been several events in these past few days reminding us how quickly an eternity can begin for someone we love.

I am grateful for the dedication and hard work of our Grace staff. Every one of them works hard and, more importantly, works toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission. You should be proud of them. They deserve your thanks and words of appreciation regularly.

So do I expect that it will slow down soon? Nope. Not until Jesus comes. And given what I see in the world around me, He might be here very soon. I'd better get back to work!

## Service of Installation for Pastor Brodbeck

Grace will hold a Service of Installation for Pastor Tom Brodbeck on Sunday, August 4 at 3:30 p.m. While it is true he has been our Senior Pastor since June 17, this service provides a time to formally recognize his new role and celebrate God's call for our church and in Pastor Tom's life.

Pastor Mark Daniels, Dean of the Southwest Ohio Mission District, will preside over the service, which will, in many regards, resemble a typical Sunday morning worship service at Grace. For the first half of the service, Pastor Brodbeck will not be in the chancel; instead he will be seated with his family in the congregation. Once he has been installed, he will lead the remainder of the service. Several members of the congregation will have roles in the installation process, making this an event of celebration for every segment of our congregation.

The Grace Sanctuary Choir and Grace Notes will each provide a musical selection. An offering will be received with the proceeds donated to "Choosing Hope Adoptions," a local faith-based ministry that helps connect families with children who need loving homes. A representative of this ministry will be present and will welcome your inquiries about what they do and how you can be involved.

This event is open to the entire congregation and community. A reception will follow.

## Call Committee Update

As mentioned in our most recent Messenger update, the Associate Pastor Call Committee submitted a revised Congregational Profile to the NALC in early June. Since that time, we have begun to receive Pastoral Profiles from individuals who have been praying about pursuing a call as Grace's next Associate Pastor.

The committee continues to meet as we review these Pastoral Profiles and determine the next step for each candidate. We have already begun the initial process of telephone interviews to learn more about the persons whose gifts appear to be a good match for the vision of ministry of our congregation. This process will continue as more Pastoral Profiles are received.

We offer our continued thanks for the valuable insight shared by all members of the Associate Pastor Call Committee - Ty Craddock, Ginger Hennig, Michelle Kouse, Jane Kreider, Tom O'Neal, Maxine Shroyer, Sandy Thompson and Council President Craig Witker. We're also grateful for the prayerful support offered by Pastor Tom Brodbeck during this important process.

We ask for your continued prayers, as well, as we look to prayerfully discern whom God has selected as Grace's next Associate Pastor. -Mark Grimes and Matt Rugh, Co-Chairs

## 2019 NALC Convocation

Every summer, representatives from the more than 400 congregations of the North American Lutheran Church gather for "Lutheran Week," a multi-day gathering that focuses on teaching, resourcing, worship, and the conducting of denominational business. This year we gather in nearby Indianapolis, the week of August 5-9.

Pastor Tom Brodbeck will lead a team of five lay delegates at this event. Representing our congregation are Max Holly, Mark Klopfenstein, Kristi Leeth, Stephen Schumacher, and Craig Witker. We have also invited former pastor Dan Powell to join us, serving as our second pastoral delegate.

The theme of the convocation is "Walking by the Spirit with the Fruit of the Spirit," based on Galatians 5:16-23. This will be a very important convocation because of one very crucial agenda item: the election of our new bishop. Bishop John Bradosky has served wonderfully for eight years – essentially for the entire time our denomination has been in existence (except for a brief organizational period when Provisional Bishop Paull Spring served). Bishop Bradosky has been, among other things, a passionate promoter of the Great Commission's call to disciple-making.

At least a dozen candidates have been formally nominated, with additional nominations expected once the delegates convene in August. This election will be a critical one for our future, thus requiring everyone in every NALC congregation to be ardent in our prayers as we identify God's selection. You are able to read more about each nominee at [www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org).

## Let Your Light Shine

Testimony is defined as a public profession of religious experience and a divine decree attested in Scripture. When you share why you are a Christian you have given a testimony. When you "let your light shine, so that others might see the good that you do, and praise your Father in Heaven" (Matt. 5:15-16), you are a walking, breathing, and living testimony.

I have the opportunity to walk with Jesus, watch him doing his work, and glorifying God by serving on Kairos teams. The Kairos Prison ministry is known for reaching men and women with the word of Christ. Not only are participants less likely to re-offend after they are released, but bringing them to Christ also improves the prison living environment at the prison, while they are still incarcerated. Through music, talks, reflection, worship, Chapel visit, great meals, and relationship building, the team lets their light of Christ shine.

On a recent Kairos weekend, during the Thursday night "meet and greet," a participant I was talking with whispered to me, "The man coming in now is a big-time gang leader and his gang has robbed me on the yard." What an opportunity! Having a gang leader participate is very desirable because that may change a leader of violence into a leader of peace. I intently watched him. He seemed quiet and not engaged that evening and also on Friday. But on Saturday he seemed to change. I noticed him singing and participating in the table discussions. Then, on Saturday night, when participants are encouraged to share what they have experienced to the whole group, he immediately got up and went to the microphone eager to give his testimony. He said his wife, also a prisoner, had attended Kairos and told him he needed to go to this. He said that now he couldn't wait to go out on the yard and tell others about his experience and to let his light shine. I was there watching Jesus change this man.

Be encouraged to let your light shine in the world of darkness. I have found it easier knowing that Jesus is at work in the hearts of these participants, and I get to watch.—Jim Leonard

## BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

On Sunday, August 11, the Grace congregation will offer a blessing to over 60 quilts, made by members of the Service Quilt Guild and those who attended the Modern Quilting Bee on July 27. The quilts, made from fabrics donated by members of the church and community, will be sent to areas where disasters have disturbed the lives of people around the world. The quilts will be divided between two organizations which have outreach programs in disaster areas: the NALC (North American Lutheran Church) and LWR (Lutheran World Relief).

The NALC serves in areas where flooding, tornadoes, and hurricanes have brought destruction to areas of the United States. LWR serves in areas where not only natural disasters have caused devastation, but where war and political upheaval have disrupted nations, and peoples' lives.

The quilts are not items which are viewed as gifts of beauty by those who receive them, but as valuable necessities for sustaining some semblance of comfort. They are truly items of service; used not only for bedding and warmth, but as ground cloths for sleeping, tents as living quarters, and even as clothing. Usually a family, of perhaps of six or seven members, are permitted only one quilt per household. With the thousands of people now homeless and in need, it is not difficult to see how many more quilts are needed.

Using the talents, care, and prayers of those involved in the work, the quilts are made with the hope that someone, somewhere, in dire need, will thank God that they have not been forgotten. If you feel moved to serve, please offer your help and support to the Service Quilt Guild. Be a servant without the need to donate money. Your time and work are what are most needed. You will be a blessing, even as the quilts are a blessing. And you will be surprised by the blessing you receive for doing so.



## SummerFest 2019

Git yerself ready, pardner! SummerFest 2019 saddles up for an afternoon of fun and fellowship on Sunday, August 25, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. here on the Grace church grounds.

The purpose of this annual event is twofold. First, it provides the Grace family with a chance to enjoy each other's company, building and strengthening relationships all while enjoying all that God has provided our congregation. Second, and perhaps most importantly, SummerFest gives you an opportunity to invite your non-churched friends and family members to a high quality, relaxed event on the grounds of your church where they can meet members of your church family.

The menu this year also follows a western theme, featuring grilled pork chops, hot dogs, cowboy beans, corn on the cob, watermelon, chips and cookies. As in the past there will be a variety of games and activities, but, new this year, we will add such western activities as stick pony races, country line dancing and rope making.

The evening will conclude with a worship service at the cross at 7:00 p.m.

Watch the bulletin and Grace app for more details as the date draws closer. Meanwhile put a fresh spit shine on your boots and begin to invite your friends.

# August Events

## Thursday, August 1

9:00 am Service Quilt Guild  
11:00 am Adult Bible Study  
6:30 pm Culture Crew  
7:00 pm Praise Team rehearsal

## Friday, August 2

## Saturday, August 3

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
5:30 pm Youth Collaborative

## Sunday, August 4

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:15 am Fellowship  
10:45 am Worship/Commissioning to Public Discipleship  
3:30 pm Installation of Pastor Brodbeck

## Monday, August 5

1:00 pm Stephen Ministry

## Tuesday, August 6

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

## Wednesday, August 7

NALC Convocation

## Thursday, August 8

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

## Friday, August 9

NALC Convocation

## Saturday, August 10

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Sunday, August 11

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/Blessing of the Quilts

## Monday, August 12

## Tuesday, August 13

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

## Wednesday, August 14

9:30 am Hope Guild  
1:30 pm Charity Guild

## Thursday, August 15

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

## Friday, August 16

## Saturday, August 17

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Sunday, August 18

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

## Monday, August 19

1:00 pm Stephen Ministry

## Tuesday, August 20

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

## Wednesday, August 21

## Thursday, August 22

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

## Friday, August 23

## Saturday, August 24

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Sunday, August 25

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Fellowship  
10:45 am Worship  
4:00 pm SummerFest

## Monday, August 26

## Tuesday, August 27

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

## Wednesday, August 28

6:30 pm GriefShare

## Thursday, August 29

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

## Friday, August 30

## Saturday, August 31

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Storytime

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



## Just So You Know...

## So We'll Know!



When you are hospitalized and/or residing in a care facility, IF you want us to know please contact Grace by calling, 399-6257, emailing [Darla.kalifoot@grace-nalc.org](mailto:Darla.kalifoot@grace-nalc.org), or using the Grace app. The hospitals and care facilities **DO NOT** notify Grace. We are honored to visit you when that is your desire, but many times we are not informed. Again, please contact us so we'll know.

FROM THE CREATORS OF WAR ROOM  
**OVERCOMER**  
IN THEATERS  
AUGUST 2019  
[OVERCOMERMMOVIE.COM](http://OVERCOMERMMOVIE.COM)

# GRIEF SHARE®

Wednesdays, August 28—Nov. 20  
6:30-8:30 PM  
Grace Parlor

## August App tidbit – Pastor Tom’s “T-Mail”

Connect with Pastor Tom mid-week by catching his “T-Mail” message found on the app under the “Grow” feature. You can read a reinforcement from last week’s message, hear about important things that have happened with the church since Sunday, and know what is coming up next Sunday, both in the service and in Sunday School. This is a great way to stay connected with church happenings and with Pastor Tom.

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” and you should recognize our logo. Once you download, be sure that you set up your profile, and select the chat groups that you want to join under “Connect – Small Group Chat – Interests.” Then browse the app to see all that it has to offer.



**Please Welcome New Member**



## Breathe

Breathe, that’s what this was all about. June 3 through July 1, our Monday evenings were spent in the Grace Fellowship Hall hearing Pricilla Shirer talk about the Sabbath. What it is, why God gave it to us and what we are to do with it. This five-week Bible study was led by Leslie McKinney and enjoyed by many of the Women of Grace and some of their friends from outside of Grace.

FREE & OPEN TO PUBLIC

BRING THE FAMILY

# SUMMERFEST 2019

**AUG.  
25  
4-7PM**

**GREAT FOOD  
BEVERAGES  
FELLOWSHIP**



## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**GIT YERSELF READY, PARDNER!**

**SUMMERFEST SADDLES UP FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 4:00—7:00 P.M.**

**HERE ON THE GRACE CHURCH GROUNDS.**

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