

# Grace Messenger

September 2019



*Let Your Light Shine!*

Let your light shine! This verse from which these well-known words are drawn is foundational to our congregation. We use it in our liturgy for baptism and, more recently, in our Commissioning to Public Discipleship rite for graduating seniors.

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)*

Now these words will serve as the central theme for our September stewardship emphasis as well because stewardship is about how we choose to live out our faith before a watching world. Stewardship is about the choices we make with our time, our talents, our testimonies and our treasures. These choices reveal our values.

As we do every year, we will once again devote the month of September to teaching God's approach to the gifts He has given. Each week, beginning Sunday, September 1, we will focus on one area of our stewardship. The fifth and final week of the month will then provide members of the Grace family with the opportunity to consecrate a portion of their time, talent, treasure and testimony to be used in God's service through the ministry of this church.

We are pleased once again to offer "Temple Talks" in which your fellow congregants share why they have invested themselves in this congregation. You will hear from Mark Grimes, Chris Mokren, Mark and Susan Russell and Mike and Gaybrielle Ray, and will be challenged by messages from Pastor Brodbeck. Pastor Brodbeck is also creating Sunday School classes to match the theme of the day.

Very soon you will receive your "Time and Talent" booklets in the mail. Please begin to prayerfully consider ways in which you would be willing to serve. In a slight change from our previous method, you will receive a copy of your "Estimate of Giving" card in the mail the week of September 22. Bring both this card and the sign-up sheet from the booklet with you to church on Consecration Sunday (September 29). You will be invited to place both on the altar during worship that morning.

Following the worship services on Consecration Sunday, you are invited to attend another wonderful Grace tradition, a potluck fellowship luncheon, served in the Community Center and Fellowship Hall. Come hungry!

-Pastor Brodbeck

# Pastor's Reflection

## Watching God at Work

It is always an amazing thing to watch God at work. This past month I've seen it happen over and over again, and I never grow tired of it.

I've seen it in the hearts and energies of members of our Grace Culture Crew, who rose to the challenge of leading individual sessions of the summer Sunday School series, even though standing in front of a classroom filled with adults was WAY out of their comfort zones. I watched as they grew more and more comfortable with each passing minute, watching God at work in their lives.

I've seen it in the tables of people praying for each other and for their neighborhoods in those Joining Jesus sessions. I was moved to tears one Sunday in particular as, from my vantage point on a chair near the piano I saw more than 65 people with bowed heads, some holding hands around the table, praying for each other and for people who need to know Jesus. God was not only moving in that moment, but He has promised to move in response to the earnest prayers of His people. I thought about the amazing things that were being birthed in the incubator of prayer in that very moment, knowing that God was moving there, too.

I've seen God move in the testimonies shared during worship, each one as unique as the personality of the one sharing. Each person spoke about how they have been touched by God. As I looked across the congregation, I could see the attention of each person in worship was riveted by what was being said. Not only had God moved in the story, but He was moving in that moment as well.

And more recently I saw God move in the election of our new bishop. The week before I left for Indianapolis, I was certain I knew what the outcome of the election would be. I even confidently told some of you who I thought would be our next leader. But God was moving in a different direction, and that was evident from the very first ballot. By the end, as the final two candidates shared a devotional based on the theme of the convocation, it was clear. Our eight person delegation looked at each other, and we all said "That's the one." God had moved.

Our Praise Team frequently sings a song that provided the theme for our most recent debt reduction campaign: "God is on the Move." That song echoes in my head a lot these days. Do you remember it? More importantly, do you see Him at work?

In my travels during my previous career as a conference superintendent, I was challenged by a pastor's sermon to play a daily game of "I Spy" with God. Each day, he said, ask yourself "where have I seen God at work today?" And when you see Him moving, point it out "I spy God right there, in that life, in that election, in that story, in that answer to prayer." I try to do that every day. A line in my prayer journal is reserved for my "I spy" response.

God is on the move. Hallelujah! God is on the move in many might ways. Do you see it? I hope and pray that you do. Watch for it. It is an amazing thing to observe. -Pastor Brodbeck

## Associate Pastor Call Committee Update

The Associate Pastor Call Committee has met several times since our last Messenger article was written. We have reviewed all Pastoral Profiles received to date and held initial interviews by telephone. We have also taken the next step, inviting some of the candidates to Grace for follow-up "in person" interviews.

These gatherings have given us a unique opportunity to get to know the candidates better. We talked about their specific gifts and how they might be able to partner with Pastor Tom and Grace's lay leadership to build upon our many strong ministries at Grace. The interviews have also allowed members of the committee to share more about our congregation and its vision for the future.

Thanks to the ongoing commitment of 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 maintain regular communication with Pastor Tom as we take each new step, and we are very grateful for his prayerful support.

We were pleased to join a large number of fellow Grace members in worship on August 4, as Pastor Tom was officially installed as our congregation's Senior Pastor.

Thank you for your continued prayers as we move forward with efforts to discern whom God has selected as Grace's next Associate Pastor. -Matt Rugh and Mark Grimes, Co-Chairs

## Introducing our New Bishop

Pastor Dan Selbo was elected as the next bishop for the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) at the August 7-9 convocation in Indianapolis. Pastor Selbo was one of 14 candidates on the initial ballot (two of which were nominated from the floor). The entire election process took four ballots to complete. He will begin his new position on October 1.

Bishop-elect Selbo is currently the Senior Pastor at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in San Jose, CA. He has been married to Mary for 33 years. Together they have four children and within the past seven months have added two grandchildren to their family. He is a 1982 graduate of San Jose State University (B.A. in Religious Studies), and a 1986 graduate of Luther Seminary (M. Div.). He also earned a Doctorate of Ministry in Biblical Preaching in 2013, also from Luther Seminary.



*Bishop-Elect Dan Selbo gives communion to a delegate during the Installation Service.*

He grew up in South Dakota and Iowa, but has lived in California since 1966. He enjoys golfing, fishing, working in the yard and spending time with family and friends.

He has served as a pastor for more than 32 years. Both of his pastorates were in large congregations with multiple staff and each had its own Christian school. He was president and on the Board of the Fellowship of Confessional Lutherans from 1998-2008 and an active member of Lutheran CORE in the years leading up to the formation of the NALC. He was also a member of the Visioning and Planning Team that was instrumental in the formation of the NALC. He was a dean in the Central Pacific Mission District and has been a member of the denomination's Life to Life Discipleship Team since it was created. Both Pastor Brodbeck and former Pastor Powell know Bishop-elect Selbo well, and consider him to be a friend and trusted colleague.

Please pray for our new Bishop as he transitions into his new responsibilities. Pray as well for the congregation at St. Timothy's as they begin the process of calling a new pastor to lead them. –Pastor Brodbeck

## NALC Convocation

The North American Lutheran Church held its annual "Lutheran week" August 5-9 in Indianapolis, IN. Grace was effectively represented by lay delegates Max Holly, Mark Klopfenstein, Kristi Leeth, Jim Rolfes, Steven Schumacher and Craig Witker. Pastor Brodbeck and former Pastor Powell represented the church as clergy delegates. They were joined by nearly 800 other clergy, lay delegates and guests in our largest convocation ever.

The first half of the week included meetings related to Youth Ministry, Women's Ministry, Theology, and Discipleship. Pastor Brodbeck participated in the discipleship session which was geared toward the recruitment of additional coaches (known in the NALC as "guides") to assist in the creation of discipleship cultures in our more than 400 congregations across the US and Canada.

Wednesday afternoon saw the start of the Mission Festival, a time devoted to the work of the denomination across the world. The featured speaker for this event was the Right Reverend Doctor Alex Mkumbo, Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania. He was born into a Muslim family but came to faith in Christ after encountering John 3:16. Our Southwest Ohio Mission District met that evening.

The actual convocation (business meeting) happened on Thursday and Friday. The primary agenda item was the election of a new bishop, requiring a major adjustment of the typical schedule for our time together. Eventually we elected Pastor Dan Selbo, after a series of four ballots, from an initial slate of 14 candidates. (You can read more about him in another article in this issue). Each of our delegates would agree that God's direction was made clear in the election process. (continued on page 4)

## NALC Convocation...(continued from p. 3)

Each of the various ministry teams of the church shared information about their work. We were introduced to our seminarians, newly ordained pastors and military chaplains, and celebrated the anniversaries of congregations and pastors. One honoree was our own Pastor Powell, recognized for 40 years of ordained ministry.

Next year's convocation will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, followed by a convocation in Corpus Christi, TX in 2021. Both events will be held the first full week of August. Members of the congregation who may have interest in serving as a delegate to these events are encouraged to speak with Pastor Brodbeck.

## Financial Stewardship

In a recent drive-by of Grace, I realized what a substantial and remarkable structure it has become; that it's a respected, positive symbol of God and His love, as well as a place of worship, with outreach to and support for our community and others beyond it. We, together, have expanded the building(s) themselves, while an expansion of our outreach has occurred as well. We open our buildings and our hearts to all who enter and we encourage those who have not been here before, to come in.

There are verses in the Bible, like Luke 6:38, that encourage giving, with the assurance that it will be returned in good measure. If we look around at the giving that is evident in our congregation, not just at the structures built, but also the community service and outreach that the structure represents, we are making solid progress in God's name. Our congregation has spread God's message to many others; to prisoners, to shut-ins and lonely seniors. We support disaster-relief efforts in numerous ways and our youth take mission trips of community service to other cities. There is a constant focus on supporting other, fledgling congregations and we continue to add and support various ministries within the community. Our congregation is shining God's light outward as well as within the structure.

When September comes around each year, preparation for the coming year begins, with a focus on Consecration Sunday, the last Sunday of that month. That day, we forecast our budget for the coming year. It's not known as forecast day but it represents our best opportunity to expand our reach through sound economics for our congregation. We will be submitting Estimate of Giving cards on Consecration Sunday and those estimates create the budget for next year. The historical three T's of stewardship are time, talent and treasure. We are blessed to have time to give to others, blessed with talent to serve in whichever way we choose and treasure to share with God. One of our hymns has a line which says "Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art." God blesses each of us in His own way and we return to Him our treasure, which is a blessing in itself. Let your light shine for Him!

- Bill Birch

### 2020 ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARD Take one step up for Christ and His Church!

In response to God's love and as a commitment to Christ and the mission of Grace Lutheran Church,  
I/we offer this estimate of giving for the year 2020 Operating budget:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  per week     per month     per year **(please check one)**

**This amount should not reflect any amount pledge for the Ministry Expansion Project.**

This card represents a faith estimate. It can be changed at any time by notifying Darla Kalifoot,  
Church Administrator

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

# Youth News

## Collaborating Youth Ministries

The Youth Pastors and Directors from several local churches formed a group, last winter, with the intentional focus of getting the middle and high school kids from across our city together as a “united” group of Christian young people. Grace Lutheran, Restored Life Ministries, Highstreet United Methodist, First United Methodist (London), and First Baptist Churches have been the catalyst for these efforts. Our third “Youth United” event was held here at Grace on Saturday night, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had almost 50 students from around the city attend (along with their Youth Leaders and some parents) the cook-out. We played games, ate a ton of food prepared by Cathy and Scott Brink, and finished the evening on the Youth Wing patio, seated around a firepit, singing worship songs and hearing testimonies. The sun was setting as we completed the evening and our guests were taking pictures left and right. It was another reminder of how richly blessed this congregation is, and, it was awesome sharing this facility with our neighborhood churches. Stay tuned



## Faith Journey: Rite of Commissioning to Discipleship

Faith Journey is Grace’s program of faith formation for children and youth, training them to live a commitment to making Jesus Christ the Lord of life. Faith Journey is a “longer and later” catechism approach. Extending instruction through twelfth grade allows for content and skills to be taught at age-appropriate stages and enhanced in repetition as students develop. This approach, known as “recursive enrichment,” provides a strong foundation for offering teenagers the option to affirm their baptismal faith and be commissioned as disciples of Jesus. The rite of Affirmation of Baptism (formerly known as “Confirmation”) is celebrated at the end of the tenth grade year, followed by the rite of Commissioning to Discipleship at the end of the twelfth grade year.

**Congratulations to these graduating seniors who participated in the rite of Commissioning to Discipleship on August 4, 2019.**

## Wednesday Nights at Grace

The end of the summer brings the resumption of our Wednesday night activities at Grace, with most of these activities beginning on September 4. The lone exception is the GriefShare ministry, which launches one week earlier (August 28) at 6:30. This requires 13 weeks, so in order to be done before Thanksgiving it needs to begin in August. This ministry is open to anyone in our congregation and community who has lost a loved one. It meets in the Parlor.

Wednesday Night Dinners return at 6 p.m. These meals provide our Grace family with a chance to build relationships with one another while enjoying a delicious meal. These meals are prepared by various members of the congregation, so we are right now recruiting people who might be willing to be "Chef for a Night." Team up with friends, bring your guild together, or take on the event by yourself. All expenses are reimbursed, and every effort is appreciated greatly.- Meals will be served through November 20.

Pastor Brodbeck will be leading a 12-week study on the life of Moses, entitled "Speaking for God in the Wilderness." This course will focus on the key events of the life of Moses, from his birth until his death, with a special emphasis on how he continued to follow God even in the face of intense opposition. Once again, the relevance of the Scriptures will be obvious to those who participate. Study guides and course schedules will be available the weekend of August 24.

### "Let Your Light Shine" through Music in our Grace Choirs

Praise God for all those who **let their lights shine** in the Sanctuary Choir, Grace Notes Handbell Choir, and the Grace Handchimes Choir. These members enjoy coming together to practice and lead worship in song in these family-friendly groups. Our members, children, youth and adults give their talents back to God, glorifying and praising our Lord and Savior at Grace and in our community.

The **Sanctuary Choir** is a very active musical group with members who **let their lights shine** here at Grace, leading the congregation in worship throughout the year. This dedicated mixed choir of soprano, alto, tenor, and bass voices enjoys raising their voices together in message and song in fellowship with each other. Members of the Sanctuary Choir also add their voices to the **Men's and Women's Choirs** who welcome others to join with these gender specific choirs at various times during the year. The **Sanctuary Choir** is a friendly group that has a family atmosphere and welcomes new members. Adults and teens with a God-given talent for singing and blending voices with others are encouraged to give your talents back to our Creator in Grace's Sanctuary Choir. This choir is a very faithful group, singing for most Sundays and special services, and, in the community singing the National Anthem for the Champion City Kings Baseball game for several years now. Necessary rehearsals are held on most Wednesdays, 7:00- 8:30 pm.

**Grace Notes Handbell Choir** rings the three octaves of bells playing the one instrument of Schummerich handbells. It takes many hands working together to make the beautiful sounds while ringing their individual handbells and reading printed music. There are opportunities for youth and adults with experience or the ability to learn and be dedicated to practicing and ringing to the glory of God. Hands are required at rehearsals that are held on many Wednesdays, 5:30- 6:45 pm. This choir of regular and substitute members, rings **letting their lights shine** at least monthly in worship throughout the year and for special events, such as the community Spring Ring.

The **Grace Handchimes Choir** welcomes participants of all ages and abilities who are interested in learning, practicing, and playing just one or two hand-chimes of this three-octave instrument. Handchimes members have the opportunity to practice and play for services during the year. This group practices after the 10:45 am. services. We plan to play on September 29, Consecration Sunday, practicing on Sundays, September 15 & 22. Why not come and **let your light shine** with the music of handchimes?

September is one of the best times to join one of our friendly choirs. You and your family are invited to a fall fellowship potluck on Saturday, September 7, 5:30 p.m. at Grace for an evening of food, fellowship, and fun.

Our family of musicians welcomes new members who have a love for Christ, a love for music, and the desire to strive for excellence in using their musical gifts for ministry. You are invited to join our choir family of musicians. Contact director, Barbara Blackburn at [barbara.blackburn@grace-nalc.org](mailto:barbara.blackburn@grace-nalc.org) or through the church office at 937-399-6257 and **let your light shine** through music.

# September

## Sunday, September 1

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

## Monday, September 2

**Grace office closed**

## Tuesday, September 3

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

## Wednesday, September 4

9:30 am Embroiderer's Guild  
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinners  
6:30 pm GriefShare  
6:45 pm 8-12 grade youth group  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal  
7:00 pm Life of Moses Bible study

## Thursday, September 5

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

## Friday, September 6

## Saturday, September 7

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
5:30 pm Choir/Bells Fall Potluck

## Sunday, September 8

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

## Monday, September 9

## Tuesday, September 10

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
9:30 am Faith Guild  
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/  
office closed  
2:00 pm Joy Guild  
6:00 pm Executive Council  
7:00 pm Agape Guild

## Wednesday, September 11

9:30 am Hope Guild  
1:30 pm Charity Guild  
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinners  
6:30 pm GriefShare  
6:45 pm 8-12 grade youth group  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal  
7:00 pm Life of Moses Bible study

## Thursday, September 12

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

## Friday, September 13

## Saturday, September 14

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Sunday, September 15

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for youth  
9:15 am Lay Ministry Story Time  
10:15 am Fellowship  
10:45 am Worship  
12:15 pm Handchime rehearsal

## Monday, September 16

2:00 pm Stephen Ministry

## Tuesday, September 17

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

## Wednesday, September 18

5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal  
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinners  
6:30 pm GriefShare  
6:45 pm 8-12 grade youth group  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal  
7:00 pm Life of Moses Bible study

## Thursday, September 19

9:30 am Messenger Mailing Team  
11:00 am Adult Bible Study  
6:00 pm Prayer Support Team

## Friday, September 20

## Saturday, September 21

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Sunday, September 22

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:15 am Fellowship  
10:45 am Worship  
12:15 pm Handchime rehearsal

## Monday, September 23

## Tuesday, September 24

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

## Wednesday, September 25

5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal  
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinners  
6:30 pm GriefShare  
6:45 pm 8-12 grade youth group  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal  
7:00 pm Life of Moses Bible study

## Thursday, September 26

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

## Friday, September 27

## Saturday, September 28

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Sunday, September 29

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:45 am Worship  
12:00 pm Consecration Sunday  
Potluck

## Monday, September 30

### Words of Gratitude

Dear Grace members,

Thank you very much for all the beautiful get well cards and prayers for my recent illness. I thank God for you and I surely felt your prayers and love!

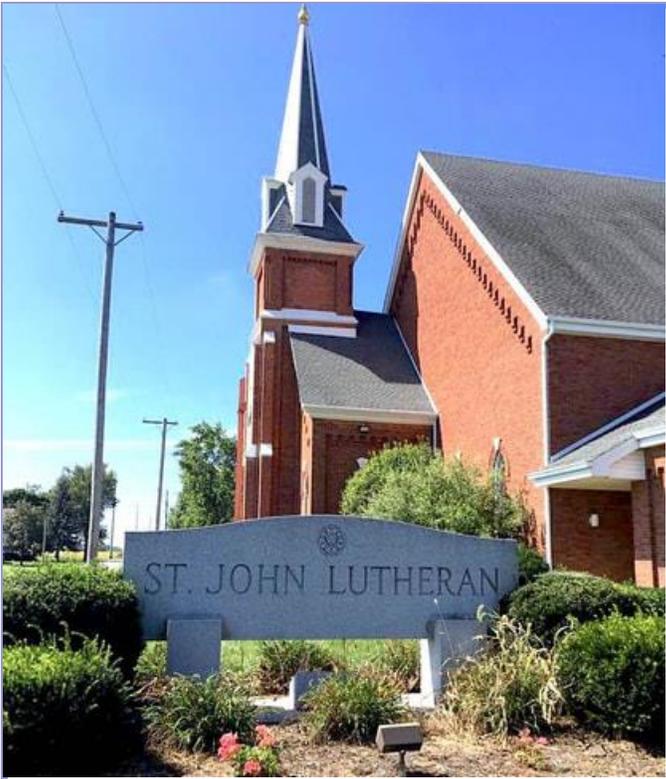
Thank you again,

Kathi Lindsay  
(sister of Mary Beth Stelzer)

Dear Grace members,

Thank you for the delicious cookies and notebook that I received. It was very thoughtful of you and such a surprise. Jerry and I enjoyed them very much. The notes in the notebook are wonderful to read. Thank you for thinking of us.

Betty & Jerry Kalifoot



## Evening of Worship and Celebration

The nine churches of the Southwest Ohio Mission District will come together on Sunday, September 8, 2019 at 5 p.m. for an Evening of Worship and Celebration. The joint worship service will be hosted by St. John Lutheran Church (7418 St. Rt. 121 North Greenville, OH). Pastor Brian McGee is the host pastor of this congregation.

The purpose of the evening is to celebrate the unity we have in Christ and the partnership we share in the Gospel. It is a first opportunity for us to gather in this way, and we are strongly encouraging our Grace family to attend. It will be a tremendous way to meet and fellowship with other like-minded Christians who worship in our area. As an extra-added enticement, the worship will be followed by an ice cream sundae fellowship. Great worship and ice cream! What a perfect combination!

The evening will also give our churches an opportunity to support the work of the NALC's disaster relief work in Dayton, OH following the Memorial Day tornadoes. Congregations are encouraged to bring supplies and offerings to the evening service. We will have a special time of prayer for these efforts. Pastor Brodbeck will be participating in the service, and Matt Rugh, our Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, will be co-

coordinating activities for the youth and children following the service.

Our mission district is composed of the following congregations: St. John (Greenville), Faith (Cincinnati), Living Water (Centerville), Salem (West Alexandria), Grace (Eaton), Grace (West Carrollton), and three congregations from Springfield: Grace, Trinity and Faith in Christ.

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