

Grace Messenger

August 2020



Pastor Brodbeck's Reflection

The realities of these past six months have introduced several new phrases to our vocabulary. A year ago I would have considered "social distancing" to be an oxymoron, akin to phrases like "jumbo shrimp" or "working vacation." Truthfully, before the recent pandemic how frequently did you "zoom bomb" or "self-isolate?"

Perhaps the phrase I hear the most isn't really something original after all: new normal. We humans have been coping with new normals since the beginning of time. Adam and Eve enjoyed the tranquility of the Garden of Eden until their sin resulted in a new normal. Each time the children of Israel fell under the domination of a foreign nation they experienced a new normal, and experienced another one when they were set free by the grace of God.

Personally, getting married, becoming a dad (three times) and grandpa (four times), moving to different cities and houses, mourning the loss of family members all resulted in changes from what had once been "normal" to something now new.

Each event in our lives creates a reality that is forever different from what once was. And we know that all of those things that "once were" would never be the norm again. And so we adjust, and we learn to see all that God has in store for what is now our "new normal."

I encourage you to fall in love with this verse of Scripture:

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:19)

Don't fret the changes that are happening, even the changes that feel forced upon us. They have not caught God unaware! He not only saw them coming, He has something new for us in the midst of them. Look for it!



NALC CONVOCAATION

We are not going to Pittsburgh this year. The annual convocation of the North American Lutheran Church, originally scheduled for Pittsburgh, has become yet another major event canceled because of concerns about the spread of COVID-19. It has moved to an online experience instead.

This shortened convocation will be broadcast through the "Go to Meeting" app on Friday, August 7 (6:00 – 9:00 p.m.) and Saturday, August 8 (2:00 – 6:00 p.m.). Anyone can attend, but only pastors and registered lay delegates can vote. Thus, this becomes a great way for you to see your denomination in action. Representing Grace as lay delegates will be Kristi Leeth, Jim Rolfes and Steven Schumacher.

We have invited the pastors and delegates from our sister congregations in Springfield (Trinity and Faith in Christ) to join us in our community center. We will broadcast the festivities during each session beginning 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time. Members of the Grace congregation are invited to attend as well. Spaces will be limited due to social distancing requirements. You will need to reserve a spot in order to do so.

STEWARDSHIP

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Almost 5 yr. old Evie said worriedly, "Grandma, I don't want Jason (her young adult step-brother) to go to Hell". Thinking to myself, how does Evie know about Hell? Well, her 10 yr. old cousin, Jack, had recently shared the Gospel with her. I ask, "Evie, is Hell a bad place?" She knows that people go there instead of Heaven, if they don't know Jesus. She decides we need to pray for Jason. So we do, often. Post-it notes on my prayer window, fridge, and bathroom mirror served as visible reminders.

Evie loves to sing (she's MY girl), so I have her sing VBS music on the car rides from Enon to Hilliard. One day, when Jason picked Evie up, we told Jason why we had been praying for him. I gave him an Adventure Bible and Strobel's "A Case for Christ" and asked him to give the books a try. About 5 months later, Evie rushes into the house exclaiming, "Grandma, our prayers worked! Jason is getting Baptized!" What a mighty God we serve!

Jack, in FAITH, shares the Gospel often: to neighbor kids, recently, a son of a practicing Jew, his dying Papa, or his younger cousin. Jack says THAT is what we are to do. Evie's love for Jason gave her a desire for him to know Jesus. Evie has the ASSURANCE that prayer works. Jason gives his life to Christ.

So, as faith-filled siblings in Christ, we pray and share the life-saving truth of Christ, in HOPE that others will make a positive decision for Eternity. Because, THAT is what we are to do. Amen?
Melody Leonard

OUTREACH CORNER

August is one of our months to help distribute food at St John's Food Pantry. This will take place the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays in the morning. Please reach out to Judy Fredrich (937-925-1177) if you have any interest in helping.

The Grace Garden continues to thrive, thanks to all who are helping with this ministry. Produce is available on Sunday mornings from 730-1030am. Please contact Terry Fredrich or Jerry Angst if you have any interest in helping out. They always need help weeding and caring for the garden.

NOMINATIONS FOR GRACE COUNCIL 2021



The Grace 2020 Nomination Committee invites members, who have been active for a period of at least one year, to nominate potential candidates to serve on next year's Grace Council. Please be sure to obtain prior approval from the person being nominated and then forward your nomination in writing to one of the Nominating Committee members by the end of September.

This year's Nominating Committee consist of: Amy Fraker, Judy Fredrich, Joe Jordan, Dean Settles, Beth Szekacs, or Sandy Thompson.

Please feel free to contact one of us with any questions you may have. The nomination is for a three-year term, 2021-2023.

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

We continue to share the different reasons our members serve at Grace. This month we are shining the light on Lance Jones with the Technology Team.

Lance writes:

As a member of the technology team I am able to serve my Lord and my Grace family with and through technology. It has been fun and exciting to see the technology at Grace grow to where it is today with live streaming Worship, Zoom education meetings, etc. I am blessed to be a part of the many ways Grace is using technology to make disciples far beyond the walls of 1801 Saint Paris Pike.

When you see why people have chosen to share their Spiritual Gifts in service at Grace, we hope you will be inspired to share your Spiritual Gifts as well.

Robert Thompson, Property Ministry Area Coordinator

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Endowment Committee has tabled the Endowment Fund Distributions for this year, at least temporarily. While the announcement of distributions took place in March, as usual, the pandemic has shut down what remained of the request and distribution schedule. The committee plans to make a more final decision at an appropriate time later in the year and will advise the congregation at that time. For the time being, the funds remain invested and will be available in the future as needs are identified on a more predictable schedule.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Grace is seeking additional members for the Financial Stewardship Team. You can sign up for this by calling the church office, 937-399-6357, or going to the Grace app under Connect, open the Sign Up Central option. Questions? Please contact Janet Rice, janet.rice@grace-nalc.org.

Heartfelt Thanks

Dear Members of Grace,
It was heartwarming to receive so many card with memories of my 49 years at Grace. I have never been a member of a church that long. Your words and scripture means a lot to me.

Blessings to you all,
Bernice Stevens
(Bernice has moved to Florida, please contact the church office if you would like to contact her)

Dear Grace friends,
What a delightful surprise to receive all the cards and birthday wishes this year. Thank you for thinking of me and blessing me in this wonderful way.
Jackie Hammond

Thank you for all the cards, prayers and well wishes for my recovery from my recent knee surgery. I am touched and so thankful for our wonderful faith family.
Bill Hester

STAYING CONNECTED

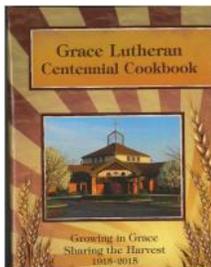
It is almost difficult to remember the way church used to be: guild meetings (with an assortment of yummy snacks), the breakfast group meeting at Panera, Soup Suppers, and Wednesday Night Dinners. The Grace Cookbook is where I turn when I want that familiar feeling of our church community, connecting with Grace members through their recipes. From a refreshing "Fruit Salsa" submitted by David Leeth, a high school youth, to 102 year old Irene Benne's "Apple Cake". The Grace Cookbook is filled with happy memories and delicious recipes.

Need fresh produce? The **Grace Harvest Table** has the freshest, highest quality produce available every Sunday from 7:30—10:30 a.m. outside the Grace bell tower entrance.

If you do not have a Grace Cookbook contact the church office, copies are available for \$15.

Bon Appetit!

Cindy Witker



Apple Cake

By Irene Benne

1^{3/4} c. sugar

1 c. salad oil

1/2 tsp. salt

2 c. flour

1 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. cinnamon

1 tsp. vanilla

4 apples, peeled & chopped

1 c. nuts

Place all ingredients in bowl except apples and nuts; mix. Add apples and 1/2 cup nuts; blend. Pour into a greased 9 x 13-inch pan. Sprinkle the rest of nuts on top of cake. Bake 45 minutes at 350 degrees.



GriefShare

Aug. 26-Nov. 18

6:30—8:30 p.m.

This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them.

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to stuff their grief instead of allowing it to do the God-given work for which it is intended. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you.

Confidentiality is very much a part of this program. Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions.

You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

Childcare available upon request. Contact Tom Brodbeck, 399-6257, for more information or to register.

CONTEST TIME

Let's have some fun! Whether you have returned to church or not, or you recently joined the church or have been here for years, or you are 5 or 102, please participate.

Are you familiar with the Harvest Table in the Grace narthex? Do you know where it's located? Do you know what's on the Harvest Table? If you answered yes to all three questions, kudos to you. But, if you answered no to any of these three questions, it's time to make a change.



That's the contest: rename The Harvest Table/Area.

Here are some things to think about as you consider a new name. Items that are on this table or in the racks above it are to inform new and existing members of things happening in and around our church and community: things we can get involved in, become more knowledgeable about, and information to share with new or perspective members.

With that bit of information, what should we call this area?

Please join the fun and submit your suggestions to me (Janet Rice) by August 15. I will share the suggestions with my team and we will select a winner. Send your suggestions to Janet.Rice@grace-nalc.org.

1st place - \$25.00 gift card
2nd place - \$15.00 gift card
3rd place - \$10.00 gift card

LOVIN' LEVITICUS

This fall we are pleased to offer a unique Bible study based on the Old Testament book of Leviticus. The course will be titled "Lovin' Leviticus." It will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:15 p.m., beginning September 9th. The course will run for 11 weeks, concluding on November 18th.

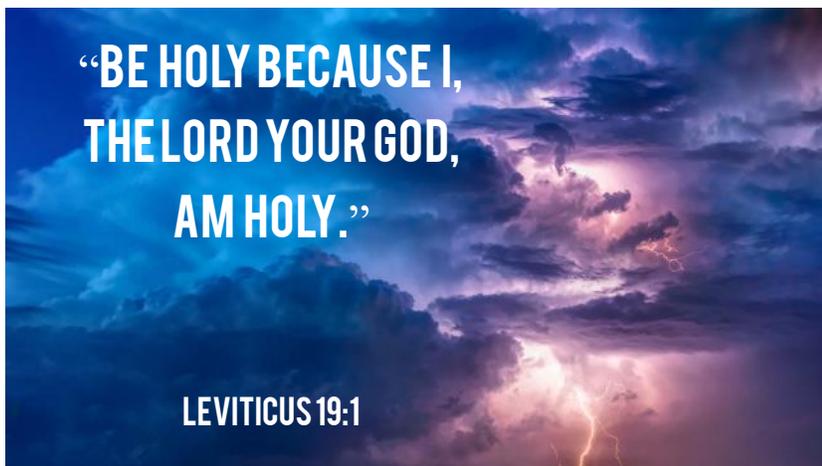
This course will be facilitated by Ithamar the Levite. Ithamar is the youngest son of Aaron and the nephew of Moses, making him uniquely qualified to guide us through this difficult and hard-to-understand book of the Bible. Because of his desire to remain faithful rather than achieve notoriety, God appointed Ithamar as the leader of all the Levites during the time the children of Israel were wandering in the wilderness.

During the travels of the Israelites in the wilderness, Ithamar was responsible for the work of the sons of Gershon and Merari, the carriers of the Tabernacle fittings and structures. He was also in charge of the work of the Levites in general.

Leviticus tells New Testament Christians how to appreciate holiness and appropriate it into their everyday lives. The word *holy* is used 91 times in Leviticus, and words connected with *cleansing* are used 71 times. References to *uncleanness* number 128. There's no question what this book is all about.

Even though the book was written for the priests of ancient Israel, the lessons found in Leviticus are not limited to the Jews of that day. The spiritual principles in this book apply to Christians in the church today. The key verses of Leviticus—"Be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44-45)—are applied to the New Testament church in 1 Peter 1:15-16; and the Book of Leviticus itself is quoted or referred to over 100 times in the New Testament.

The course will be offered on site and through Zoom. Sessions will be recorded as well. Please consider making this study a part of your fall faith journey plans.



CURRENT RESIDENT OR



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