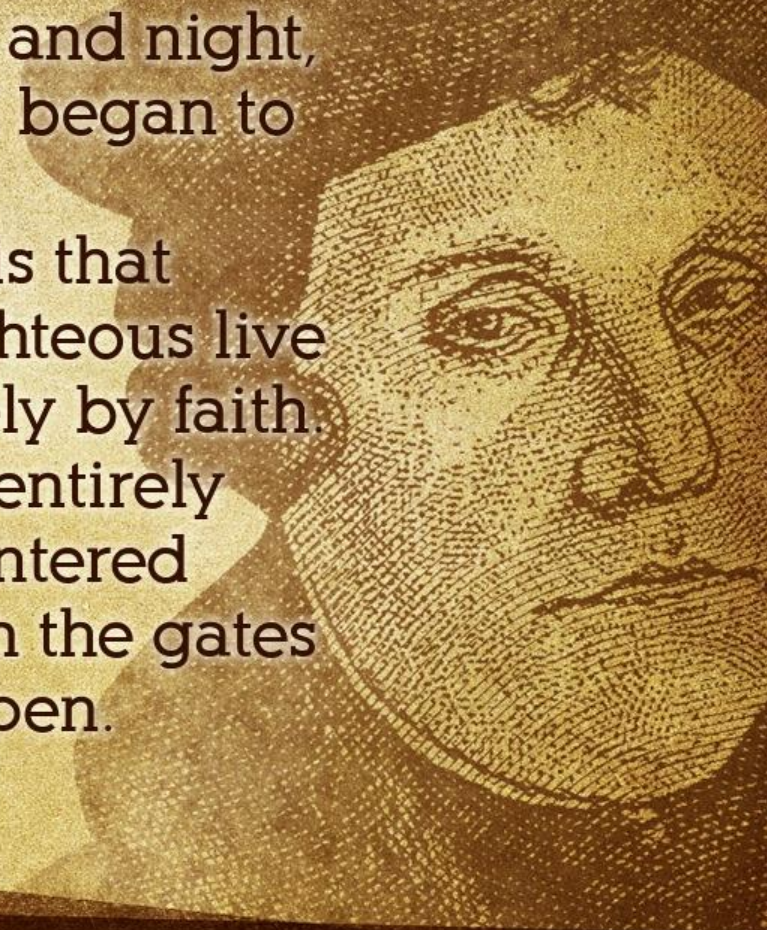


Grace Messenger

October 2020



At last meditating day and night, by the mercy of God, I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that through which the righteous live by a gift of God, namely by faith. Here I felt as if I were entirely born again and had entered paradise itself through the gates that had been flung open.

MARTIN LUTHER

Pastor Brodbeck's Reflection

On the last Sunday of October, we will once again commemorate that day in 1517 A.D. when Martin Luther, a priest and scholar, posted his 95 theses (discussion topics) on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. That invitation to debate sparked what we now call the Protestant Reformation.

Luther had no intention of creating a new denomination. He sought only to "reform" the church, bringing it back into line with the teachings of Scripture. He intended to "re-form" the doctrine of the church.

The year 2020 has made it necessary for every church – Grace included – to re-form itself. Our doctrine is the same, but we have been reshaped in many, many ways. We will forever be associated with an online presence, both in our worship and educational ministries. Zoom wasn't a part of our vocabulary a year ago. We don't receive the sacrament of Holy Communion like we used to do it. Our care ministries largely happen over the telephone. Most certainly, we have been re-formed.

But despite the differences in approach, we are still the church. We are still the people of Grace, called to make a noticeable difference in our community and in our world. We are still a people who reach out with the Good News of salvation by faith through grace. We are still a people who believe God is actively at work in this world, changing hearts, answering prayers, guiding and directing the paths of those who follow Him.

We have been re-formed – maybe simply reminded – of the importance of the Body of Christ in our physical and spiritual health. We've learned anew why the Scriptures emphasize the gathering together of Christians (Acts 4:42ff; Hebrews 10:24-25). We have a deeper appreciation for each other, and the strength and hope we gain as we travel our journeys together.

This reflection piece is an expression of my thanks for each of you. Together we are the people of Grace. Together we are pursuing God's will for our lives and seeking to fulfill His purpose in our world.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: WHEN HELPING HURTS

Over the past two decades there has been an enormous increase in the efforts of the church in North America to help the poor. That is a wonderful, and long overdue answer to prayer. But within these efforts the church may be doing many harmful things. It is indeed possible to hurt people in the very process of trying to help them. Good intentions are not enough. How can the church truly "help" those in need?

That is the focus of the Adult Sunday School series beginning October 11 (9:15 a.m.). The six week series is titled "When Helping Hurts." It will meet in the Community Center. The class uses a combination of video teaching and small and large group discussion, and will be available through Zoom to those unable to attend in person.

PLUGGED IN

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

PUMPKIN CARVING

OCTOBER 25 @ 6PM

6350 TROY-FREDERICK RD.
TIPP CITY, OH 45371

BRING A PUMPKIN AND A FRIEND!

CONTACT PASTOR BRIAN FOR MORE DETAILS

PLUGGED IN: PUMPKIN CARVING EVENT

Plugged In continues its ministry to get people plugged into a *life-saving* relationship with Jesus and a *life-giving* relationship with others.

To do that, we meet bi-weekly on zoom in what we're calling *The Hub*. This is intentional time together led by God's Spirit and centered on God's Word. In our current series, we're using Andy Stanley's *Community: Starting Well* in which to build healthy relationships in our lives. Out of a life-saving relationship with God comes life-giving relationships with others.

In addition to fulfilling our mission, *Spark Events* are designed to help connect people to people and people to God. These are fun, family-friendly events that are meant to serve each other and our community. *Coffee and Conversations* are being held once a month at Winans (32 N. Fountain Ave.). We'll also be enjoying live music at the COhatch on Friday nights and connecting with people in our community as well. These events are a great time to stop the busyness of your day to intentionally connect with other people. You will find that this time is well-invested time. To see the Plugged In calendar, please visit the church website and click on the tab "Events."

Lastly, I'd like to invite you to our next spark event: Pumpkin Carving on Sunday, October 25 at 6 pm. We'll be meeting at 6350 Troy-Frederick Road in Tipp City, Ohio, 45371. It's going to be a lot of fun - you don't want to miss it! Bring a pumpkin to carve and a friend to enjoy the beauty this time of the year brings.

If you'd like more information about Plugged In or want to connect, contact Pastor Brian at brian.mcgee@grace-nalc.org. I hope to see you on October 25th if not before.

Pastor Brian S. McGee

OUTREACH

OCTOBER OUTREACH CORNER

Reminder: our next Outreach Break is on Sunday October 4th at 9:15 a.m. We will be hearing from some of our own Grace members talking about their experiences on Mission Trips they've had opportunity in which to participate. We will then present some options for Grace Members to possibly participate in a mission trip in 2021 and beyond.

Paper Goods Drive: to benefit Celebrate Recovery House. Please bring in toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, and/or napkins. Place items in the box marked Paper Goods for Celebrate Recovery House in the front entry way through the month of October.

ST. JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY

The Ministry Coordinator we are spotlighting this month is Judy Fredrich. When asked why she serves in this ministry, Judy replied:

I have been volunteering at St. John's for about 15 years. St. John's Food Pantry assists clients by providing three days of non-perishable and perishable food items and hygiene products once a month. Grace has a strong and diverse team to serve during the months of February, May, August and November. Each year I have seen a greater need at the pantry to serve those less fortunate.

Serving these people gives me a sense of purpose. Volunteering is in my blood. My Mom has been a shining example to me over the years as she continues to volunteer at the age of 97. Looks like I have a few more years of volunteering ahead of me.

Thank you, Judy, for being a willing and active servant.

GriefShare

GriefShare continues on Wednesdays, 6:30– 8:30 p.m., in the Grace parlor. Topics this month: Oct. 7– Guilt & Anger, Oct. 14—Complications, Oct. 21– Stuck, Oct. 28– Lessons in Grief-I

RENAME THE HARVEST TABLE CONTEST

In the August Messenger we announced there would be a contest to rename the Harvest Table in the Narthex.

The winners of the contest are Mel Leonard and Kristin Culp and the new name is **Connections Center**.

Thank you Mel and Kristin for your entries. Janet Rice

Heartfelt Thanks

Praise God for Bill Lawson's healing following his heart attack and stent placement. Bill is recovering very well and returning to normal activities.

The Lawsons thank God for the support of their Grace family through prayers, cards, phone calls and offers of help.—Lora and Bill Lawson

Dear Grace family,

Thank you for all the cards and good wishes I received for my 92nd birthday. It means a lot to me.

Blessings,

Margot Simpson

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Consecration Sunday, September 27, 2020 results:

130 Pledges received on Consecration Sunday in the amount of : \$495, 296

Other pledges we expect to receive: \$214,965

Loose and other income: \$ 9,738

Total anticipated for 2021 \$719,999.



Grace Fall Fest Oct. 18 4-6 p.m.

Fall Fest will be on October 18 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. with activities, contests and more! Put your chef hat on and bring a crock pot of your best for the Grace Chili Cook Off. There will be a Scarecrow Contest. Get your family or church group together to make and enter a Scarecrow. Prizes and bragging rights are at stake for the chili and scarecrows. Activities will include pumpkin painting and a Corn Maze. Join Grace Storytellers around a bonfire for a great tale and some singing. Learn of beekeeping around the Grace Beehive. Of course, there will be food. The best part of the evening will be enjoying the fellowship of each other and the friends and family you bring.

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



www.grace-nal.c.org 937.399.6257

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Evangelical Lutheran Church



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