

Grace Messenger

July 2021

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Last month I reminded you of "Growing in G.R.A.C.E." as more than a nice theological slogan in our congregation, calling it "a description of the pathway" our congregation has created to help you mature in your faith. As you read last month's article you learned the letter "G" stands for "Grow in God's Word."

This month we focus on the letter "R," which stands for "Retelling Your Faith Story." This is how the faith is passed along from generation to generation, so it is one of the primary tasks of a disciple.

As with the letter "G," there are three skills and practices. First, is being certain of your own relationship with Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that we may "know" that we have life eternal in Jesus (1 John 5:13). It is that knowledge that gives us confidence to share the good news with others, so this is an important step.

The second skill is the ability to articulate the story of your walk with Jesus in a simple and clear way. Our goal is for you to relay it in three minutes or less, because often that is the amount of time someone will graciously listen before they start to tune you out. Everyone's story is different and therefore uniquely special. Being able to articulate it will not only help you share your faith, but help you recognize the key moments you and God have had on your journey.

The third skill is a strategic one. Here you are intentionally building relationships with people who need to hear your story. These might be people you already know or people you've not yet met. But either way, you are seeking out opportunities to let people know what Jesus has done for you.

The most important thing to remember in this component of your discipleship is that YOUR story is always a part of HIS story. That is, ultimately it is the story of Jesus that we are telling and re-telling. It must always be about "Christ in us" (Colossians 1:27). It's never about you; it is the story of what Jesus has done for, in and through you. So don't avoid this part of your spiritual growth just because you don't like to call attention to yourself. Talk about Jesus!

Every day, maybe even every hour of the day, our lives intersect with people who need Jesus. Imagine ... what if your story with Jesus could be the missing step in their story with Jesus? Imagine! Keep growing in G.R.A.C.E.!

Let's Go To The Fair

For some time now we have talked about our presence in the city of Springfield. Pastor Tom has often said that we are well known to our neighbors and friends. However, there are people in Clark County that aren't familiar with Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church so let's try to change that. We will have a booth at the 2021 Clark County Fair. The fair begins on Friday, July 23 and runs through Friday, July 30. We will have a tent where we will have the opportunity to meet and talk to people, share the gospel, pray with those who want/need prayer, and sell our Grace Centennial Cookbook. We will also have some Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church giveaways. We are looking for people to man the tent. We will be having 2 shifts, 12- 4 p.m. and 4 - 8 p.m. There is a cost to enter the fair: General Admission (13-59) \$15, Senior Admission (60+) \$12. Grace will reimburse you for your ticket. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Pastor Tom or Darla Kalifoot at 937- 399-6257.

FAITH WORKS

Did you know that Grace has a fund designed to help members of our congregation in times of financial difficulty? It is called "Faith Works."

This fund offers a grant of up to \$750 one time every 12 months. The entire process of applying for and receiving funds is 100% confidential. Only Pastor Brodbeck and Darla Kalifoot will know. Pastor Tom knows because he receives the application. Darla writes the check. Funds are not paid to the applicant, but to the vendor who needs to be paid. For example, if we approve payment to help with rent, we pay the landlord directly.

Applications are found in the bank of mailboxes in the Grace front office. Either Pastor Tom or Darla can help you locate them if you have difficulty. The application is then returned to Pastor Tom.

These funds are possible through the generous gifts of our congregation. Any funds our church receives from the KrogerPlus card program or through Amazon Smile are also directed into this fund.

If you or someone you know has a need, please investigate this option.

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 and 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.

This year's group will be commissioned on Sunday, July 25, at the beginning of the 10:45 worship service. Thank you for your support now and in the future for these committed young people of Grace.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Grace will once again host Vacation Bible School on August 2nd, 3rd, and 4th with "Anchored: Deepening Faith in God." The participating kids (4 years old through 4th grade) will dive deep into Scripture, where every song, game, hands-on experience, and Bible adventure points kids toward one important truth from the Bible—that God is always faithful! Our supervising kids (5th-12th 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: "Music & More" and "Coral Reef Closing" where Matt gets to play the role of Diver Dave, the guide that will provide a splash of smiles and get everyone fired up for God; "Anchors Away Play", the athletic side of VBS; "Deep Bible Adventures", where Bible Stories come alive; and "Sea Crafts", where kids will create Trusty Turtles to remind them of God's faithfulness. 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 an Underwater Paradise. Keep an eye out for upcoming information on how you can be involved and TRUST GOD!



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Everything we think, say and do is birthed in how we see the world around us. It is the "well" from which everything flows.

When Jesus talked with the Samaritan woman (John 4), He introduced her to a different well from which to be refreshed: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst." From that point on, she thought, spoke and did things differently. She saw the world from a different point of view.

Beginning July 18, our Adult Sunday School class will focus on that theme. The course is titled "The Well: Thinking, Speaking and Living Like Jesus." The class will run for seven weeks, concluding on August 29.

Pastor Tom has selected an optional book to supplement the course. It is titled "Christian Worldview: A Student's Guide" (by Philip Graham Ryken). The church has purchased 30 copies of this book. You can buy one for \$10 starting Sunday, July 4.

PHILIPPIANS

Philippians 1:9-11: "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God."

Paul is praying for the Philippian Church to grow in discerning love so that it gives glory to God. It is not enough to have love that is subjective without the truth of the word of God or to know scripture without heart.

We need to deepen our faith in our relationship with God to understand and embrace discerning love. This prayer reminds us that we need to work constantly in our relationship with ourselves, our family and other people.

Love is self-sacrifice. In order to build self-esteem in others, we must model Christ and encourage others to be like Him. If loving God is based on discernment and the word of God, then everything else will fall into place. It sets us free to live a better life by giving glory to God.

JULY OUTREACH CORNER

July Breakfast Break: Come join us on Sunday, July 11th during the Sunday school hour to hear Katie Price from Lifewise Academy. She will share more with us about an opportunity for Springfield and Grace to be able to share the Bible during the school day with our local children. We've already been signing a petition. Come to hear more about the program and learn what the next steps will be. We will share coffee and pastry items during this Sunday school time.

Snowhill School Supply Drive: During the month of July, we will be collecting school supplies for Snowhill School. The list of needed items is posted in the narthex or on the Grace App and/or Website. Put items in the box in the Narthex by August 1st. See Sandy Thompson for more information.

Birthday Cake Kits for St John's Food Pantry: St John's food pantry is running low on sweets. Grace would like to put together Birthday Cake kits to pass out. One kit would include a cake mix, frosting, a pan, and candles. Please put kits or items for the kits in the box in the Narthex by Sunday August 1st. See Judy Fredrich for more information.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

We are going forth with our plans to implement Christmas in July. We are excited to be able to visit and deliver cookies to our shut-ins this year. Due to Covid, we are going to purchase cookies from GFS. We are asking for monetary donations for the cookies. They are approximately \$20 dollars a box for different varieties of the thaw and serve cookies.

If you wish to donate, please designate the money for Christmas in July Cookies. You can donate whatever monies you would like for a box or towards a box. We are then asking for members to deliver the cookies, same as last year. This will take place on July 22 and through that weekend. The only difference is we may have to call some facilities 24 hours ahead of time, and also members at home, to see if they would like a visit or for the cookies to be just dropped off. Please watch for sign-up central in early July. Thank you for considering to be a part of this special ministry. Please text or call Mary Beth Stelzer at 937-215-8805.

THE GRACE HERB GARDENS

It's hard to believe that we are ready for another season of the harvest table. We have a lot to offer and everything looks good! New additions to the herb garden this year are cutting celery and saffron crocus. The cutting celery is establishing nicely and I am patiently waiting to see how the saffron does in the herb garden.

Since working in this garden is voluntary, I am interested in establishing work days for maintenance of the herb gardens this season. At this time, my working schedule is Mondays and Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. I am presently looking for individuals who are possibly interested in helping with this project. If this is something that you would be interested in doing, please contact me at 937-925-2347 or catz3243@gmail.com. It would be a good opportunity to learn about culinary herbs.

HEARTFELT THANKS

Thank You Dear Ones,

Thank you so much for all your uplifting get-well cards, words of encouragement, prayers, and presence in my life, as I continue to recover from an accident at my home on 01 May. Those moments you spent writing me, texting me, or speaking with me are precious to me. I continue to thank God for your concern and treasured friendship. I am grateful for my recovery time at home as I look forward to the day when all restrictions are lifted and we can finally reconnect. God Bless all of you.

I want to take this time to praise God for Pastor Emeritus Dan and his continued devotion to pastoral care for the Grace congregation. As many of you were preparing for worship on 02 May, Pastor Dan was reaching out to me, calling me and praying me into surgery for repair of the right shoulder and hip injuries I sustained the day before. His petitions for a successful surgery to our awesome God on my behalf were so welcomed. I will never forget his kind, reassuring words of comfort and peace. THEN SINGS MY SOUL....a heartfelt Thank You to Pastor Dan from a grateful Carol Carpenter.

In Christian Love, Carol Carpenter

Dear Grace Card Ministry Members,

I cannot express how special and meaningful all the cards you sent to my great-niece Liliana Franz were. When we all came back to our house for lunch, she was showing all of us how many cards she had gotten. We told her we would eat lunch first and then she could open them. So after lunch we all sat around her and she read each and everyone of them. Seeing her reaction to all of the love and prayers you all sent was just so precious.

Please know this ministry touches not only the person receiving the card, but all of their family members who love them as well.

To conclude, I just want to say how beyond blessed we are here at Grace to have such a loving and caring congregation and pastor and staff. Our whole extended family wishes they lived closer to Springfield so that they could attend here as well.

Thank you all again. It was such a meaningful and celebratory day for us all.

Your sister in Christ, Judy Cary

LAY MINISTRY FUN CORNER

Our Ministry nod for July is **Adult Education**. The Spiritual Gifts are **Proclamation**, those with this gift see God's footprints in various events and circumstances and reveal to people where God is leading.

Teaching the Faith, those who teach the faith are particularly valuable today because they help new Christians understand God's word so they can relate it to their lives.

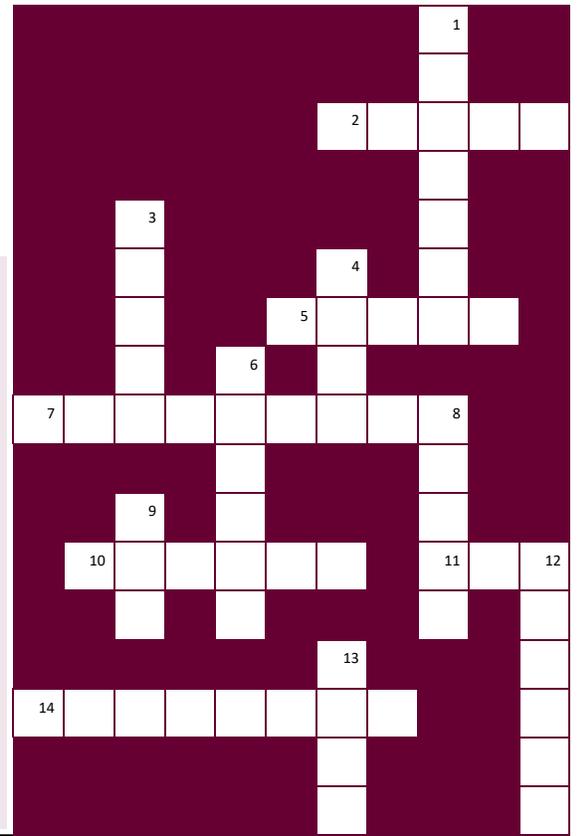
July: Bible People and Places

ACROSS

- 2. Who was the governor that heard the council's case against Paul?
- 5. A man of passion and destiny
- 7. Which place is called "Zion" and "the city of David"?
- 10. A man of integrity and forgiveness
- 11. The name meaning Mother of all living.
- 14. Who took Judas Iscariot's place as an apostle?

DOWN

- 1. What is the last book of the Old Testament?
- 3. Which apostle walked on water?
- 4. A man of grace and grit.
- 6. A woman of strength and dignity.
- 8. A man of selfless dedication.
- 9. A man of heroic endurance.
- 12. A man of heroism and humility.



Answers for June Match game

- David - A Man of Passion and Destiny
- Esther - A Woman of Strength and Dignity
- Joseph - A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness
- Moses - A Man of Selfless Dedication
- Elijah - A Man of Heroism and Humility

- Job - A Man of Heroic Endurance
- Paul - A Man of Grace and Grit
- Mary Magdalene - First witness at empty tomb of Christ
- Moab - The son of Lot's eldest daughter
- Sarah - Isaac's mother (at age of 90)
- Hannah - Samuel's mother

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



www.grace-nalco.org 937.399.6257

Springfield, OH 45504
1801 St. Paris Pike

Evangelical Lutheran Church



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