

Grace Messenger

October 2021



WORSHIP NOTES

Our calendar is quickly winding down. Even more quickly our church calendar year is nearing the end. We start a new church year on November 28 (the first Sunday in the season of Advent).

But before then, we will experience three very important Sundays. First, October 31st is Reformation Sunday. You won't notice much difference in the Order of Worship that day, but you will note that we sing some of the great Lutheran hymns. This Sunday celebrates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation and the realization that salvation comes by God's grace through faith alone.

The following week, November 7, is All Saints' Sunday. On that day we celebrate those who have been baptized during the last year. We call them "The Church Militant." You will see those names hanging on the banner in the sanctuary each week. We also remember those who have passed into eternity in the last year. These individuals are known as "The Church Triumphant." In a solemn moment we light a candle in memory of each of them.

Two weeks later, November 21, is Christ the King Sunday. This is the final Sunday of the Church year, so we celebrate Christ's victory over sin, death and the devil as we proclaim Him King of kings and Lord of lords.

During October and November my sermon series will point forward to the coming Kingdom of Christ. I've titled it "Kingdom Come." We will talk about the "big" concepts of the coming kingdom of Christ.

GROWING IN G.R.A.C.E. – THE LETTER “E”

This month marks the final installment of our series on the meaning of our “Growing in G.R.A.C.E.” acronym. In previous months you’ve discovered that the letter “G” stands for “Growing in God’s Word,” the letter “R” refers to “Re-telling Your Faith Story,” and the letter “A” designates the need to “Apply Your Spiritual Gifts.” Last month the focus was on “C,” our reminder of the importance of “Cultivating Accountable Relationships.” This month we focus on the letter “E: Exalting God in Worship.”

Disciples of Jesus join with the community of faith in both public and private times of worship. They develop meaningful prayer lives and also experience God through the practice of the spiritual disciplines.

The Scriptures clearly communicate the importance of corporate worship to the development of our spiritual lives. It is in worship that we hear God’s Word proclaimed. In worship we share in the Sacraments. In worship we experience the joy of being a part of the family of God and discover how important we are in the spiritual growth of those around us.

The world competes mightily with this Christian value, doesn’t it? That alone ought to tell us how important it is! The devil doesn’t want us in church, so he creates many ways for us to avoid it because he knows that our consistent, weekly connection to our church keeps our faith alive and vital. So first and foremost, disciples attend worship.

Secondly, disciples pray, working hard to develop a consistent and meaningful prayer life. It is in prayer that we enjoy the most intimacy with God our Father, an intimacy that can be achieved in no other way. Our reading of the Scripture is important, as is our corporate worship, but just as talking with your spouse or friend develops closeness and oneness, so too talking with God brings us close to Him. In prayer we are able to share our needs and to listen for His direction for our lives.

Thirdly, disciples practice spiritual disciplines. This is perhaps one of the least implemented elements of discipleship in Christianity world-wide, perhaps because the mere mention of them evokes a sense of mystery or images of the saints of old. But there is no need to recoil from the idea! Spiritual disciplines are merely practices that help you focus your attention on God. Depending on who you read, there are between 7 and 15 different disciplines, all of which can have meaning to your particular situation. Some of the most common are fasting, meditation, journaling, and maintaining periods of silence. Some of the disciplines are used for short durations of time – like fasting. Others may become habits that last a lifetime – like journaling.

Keep growing! See you in worship this week.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

In recent issues of the Grace Messenger, Pastor Tom has written about the “Growing in G.R.A.C.E.” discipleship pathway. In adult Sunday school during October, we will focus on “Exalting God in Worship” by exploring the Lutheran liturgy. Why do we worship the way we do? How did Martin Luther influence our worship traditions? Where did the liturgy we use originate? Why do we use words like “kyrie” and “alleluia”? In a series of three sessions, we will attempt to answer these and other questions. Join me at 9:15 a.m. on October 10, 17 and 24 to explore Lutheran liturgical traditions, and perhaps, gain a new appreciation of our worship experience.

Kristin Cline

TIP THE MINISTRY SCALE

Since January we have been posting signs around the church and in the Messenger. I hope you have seen them, read them and enjoyed them. These signs were created by the Ministry Area Coordinators to highlight the Ministry they represent and the Spiritual Gifts associated with their Ministry. Well done!

In 2018 we had The Wax Museum, in 2019 we had Story Time and in 2020 we simply shared the ministries via video. This year we have the Ministry Scale. Each of these programs is designed to share with you the many opportunities for you in which to participate and to share your gifts with others at Grace.

I hope you saw the scale and moved a card from the “Distraction” side to the “No Longer Distracted” side of the scale to help us “Tip the Ministry Scale” of faith. The purpose of the scale was a show-n-tell of our ministries. I track the number of Time & Talent responses we receive, but this scale was to give you a visual. We are truly blessed with an abundance of members that serve on various teams at Grace. Thanks be to God!

By the way, the next time you will see this scale will be at the Charity Auction in December. It was made and donated by Dean Settles. *Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.* - Proverbs 16:3

Blessings, Janet Rice



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Consecration Sunday, September 26, 2021 results:

107 Pledges received on C.S. in the amount of:	\$461,690
Other Pledges we expect to receive:	\$259,575
<u>Loose and other income</u>	<u>\$ 7,290</u>
Total anticipated for 2022	\$728,555

USING LIFELONG GIFTS WELL

What a gift it is, when a new member to Grace last year eagerly offers to play her cello for worship services, soon arrives for choir rehearsals and joins in with the hand bell choir. Music has played a very important part in Carol Suddath's life since she was a young girl. She sang with a children's group at church and began playing cello in junior high school. She feels that music helped her 'fit in,' and she continued to play her instrument all through high school and college.

After several years of not playing her cello, Carol took it up again and has allowed it to fill an important part of her adult life. She finds music to be fun and exciting, a challenge and giving her a means to contribute. She played with the Miami Valley Philharmonic Orchestra for ten years and now plays with the Wright State University Orchestra. She has enjoyed playing her cello in a church orchestra, and with small ensembles, such as the 'Cello Chicks,' in nursing homes and in churches from time to time. These experiences have allowed Carol to find joy in playing with others and in giving back. For church services she tries to fit her music to the message of the day, praying 'please Lord, let them hear what you want them to hear.' We are blessed to have Carol offering her musical gifts at Grace. We look forward to hearing the small ensemble(s) she has begun to form with other Grace musicians.

LAY MINISTRY FUN CORNER

Our Ministry nod for October is **Children & Youth Ministry**. **Visionary and Managing Leadership** those with this gift communicate visions and plans to help others get from where they are to where they are called to be. The gift of **Knowing** is heart-knowledge, they take others by the hand to meet Jesus.

OCTOBER GRACE TRIVIA:

- She has a BS in Natural Resources from The Ohio State University and is an Ohio Certified Naturalist. She loves to play in the dirt, looking for interesting rocks and creatures.
- This gentleman played junior high basketball (not surprising) and his coach was ...Jim Rolfes.
- This lady touts her most rewarding trip was when she followed in the Apostle Paul's footsteps. It started in Rome, through Greece and Turkey, now when she reads the Bible she can relate more because she has been there.
- This young man was a first-team (this year, his senior year) all-conference selection in both soccer and baseball in spite of having three screws in his body before the age of 18. Who is this and what high school did he attend?
- In HS he ran a 9.9 second 100 yard dash. And Jim Rolfes was the starter
- She had 4 brothers and 2 sisters. All were in the children's home at one time, she was there from age 8 to 16 then went to live with her foster family. Her foster brother became a Lutheran minister here in Springfield, Richard McDaniel. She sang in the choir at 5th Lutheran church where she met her husband, and was active singing for weddings etc. She had quite the voice.
- He was president of the marching band and captain of the basketball team his senior year. And he puts, I just counted them, 13 items in his smoothie every morning.
- About 4th or 5th grade summer baseball he made a triple play all by himself - playing 2nd he caught a fly ball, tagged the runner between 1st & second, and then tagged 2nd before that player came back to tag the bag. He also has met 3 Ohio Governors and 2 Former First Ladies. He has his picture with 2 Governors from the State Fair. (He has photos with Kasich and DeWine and he met Gov. & Mrs. Taft and Mrs. Strickland when the Scout Troop volunteered at an event at the Governor's Mansion).

ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER BLESSING WORD SCRAMBLE:

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. discernment | 5. worship | 9. kitchen | 13. servanthood |
| 2. hospitality | 6. proclamation | 10. apostleship | 14. parish care |
| 3. outreach | 7. adult education | 11. Stephen ministry | 15. generosity |
| 4. music | 8. youth ministry | 12. children ministry | 16. property |

OCTOBER OUTREACH CORNER

A group of Grace members will be taking a short mission trip to Laurel Mission in Big Laurel, Kentucky, in late October. Even though you may not be making the trip, there are many ways you can support this team and the mission.

Number 1: Please be praying for Laurel Mission and all the work they do in this poverty-stricken area of the USA. Please pray for us! If you are interested in being a prayer partner for a specific team member, we'd love to have one or more people praying for each of us. Our team members will be Carol Sudduth, Steve and Andy Schumacher, Pastor Tom and Karen and Robert and Sandy Thompson.

Number 2: During the month of October, we will be collecting items to take with us. You may donate new or gently used clothing for their clothing closet. You can donate canned meat, vegetables or fruit for their food pantry. You can also donate painting supplies, including paint brushes, rollers, trays etc. We will be leaving at noon on Wednesday, October 27, therefore, all donations will need to be turned in by Monday, October 25. Please reach out to Sandy Thompson with any questions, or for information about being a prayer partner. spnrj@yahoo.com or 937-605-0416. Thanks for your support!



HEARTFELT THANKS

Steege and I want to thank the members of Grace who have showered us with cards, prayers, and concern over these past weeks as we are recovering from Covid. We are truly blessed to have the love of the congregation. Thank-you and God bless you. Steege and Diane

We wish to thank Pastor Tom and the Grace family for all the prayers and cards during Gena Rousculp's illness and birthday. God Bless, Don and Joyce Merkle

Thank you very much for all the birthday wishes on my 93rd birthday, I enjoyed it very much. Greetings, Margot Simpson

Thank you for the many cards and notes of encouragement, that I received after my recent knee surgery. Our Grace Family truly "abounds" in love and concern for the sick and the homebound. With gratitude, Janet Weller

Thank you so very much to all the beautiful people of Grace who have showered us with cards and prayers over the last few years. Your support and caring has been a tremendous help to Maryck and myself with the passing forward of Stephanie Seech. God bless, Mark Seech

GRIEFSHARE

GriefShare continues on Wednesdays, 6:30– 8:30 p.m., in the Grace parlor.

Each seminar is designed to provide insights from a biblical and personal perspective, plus time for group members to share, as they choose, about how they are dealing with the death of their loved one. Each topic is self-contained so you don't have to attend in sequence. Topics this month:

Oct. 6– Guilt & Anger, Oct. 13—Complications, Oct. 20– Stuck, Oct. 27– Lessons in Grief-I

MUSIC NOTES

A reception was held for Dave and Raelynn Vrooman upon their move to Marietta. We will miss them in Worship and Dave in the Choir every week and we look forward to times they will visit. The Grace family and the members of choir and bells wish you well in your new home.



OUTREACH BREAKFAST BREAK

Sunday, Oct 3, at 9:15 a.m. adult Sunday School will host Springfield City Youth Mission. Enjoy breakfast and learn about this Springfield ministry.





SEND GOOD NEWS AND GREAT JOY

PACK A SHOEBOX



PACKING FUN IN A SHOEBOX

Joy Guild had a "packing party" for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. The guild made sock puppets for children between the ages of 2-4 years. This "Wow" item is one of many that maybe included in the box. Stuffed animals, clothing, and small musical instruments are also treasured by children.

Operation Christmas Child will be setting out the shoeboxes Oct 3, 2021 for you to pick up and return to church no later than November 14, 2021. Any questions can be answered by calling Agnes Smoot at 937-284-1009.



I SAW IT ON THE APP!

Do you know about the Grace App? By using this simple communication tool, you can stay in touch with all that is happening in your church every moment of the week. Did you miss the Sunday morning announcements? Find them on the app! You will also receive other important pieces of information, including Pastor Tom's weekly "T-Mail," published every Wednesday morning. You will also find links to worship services, Bible Studies and devotional material. You will be able to quickly volunteer for an immediate service need. You can even contribute financially. All this and so much more! Download it today!



Mid-Week Update
Current as of September 20, 2021

Major Upcoming Events

Fall Fest 4-7 p.m. October 17, 2021. Bring a crock pot of your favorite chili for the Chili Cook Off. There will be lots of kids games, bonfire, smores and entertainment for all. Bring a friend!
[Register Here.](#)

Live Streaming 10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship

[Click here for Sunday, September 26 Worship Resource](#)



FALL FEST SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021 4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Bring a crock pot of your favorite chili for the Chili Cook Off. There will be lots of kids games, bonfire, smores and entertainment for all. Bring a friend! Register on the Grace App or by calling the church office at 937-399-6257.

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



www.grace-nalc.org 937.399.6257

Springfield, OH 45504

1801 St. Paris Pike

Evangelical Lutheran Church



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