

Grace Messenger

JUNE 2022



PASTOR'S REFLECTION

In this month of June, Karen and I will have the wonderful opportunity to check an item off my bucket list. We will be traveling with a dozen other people, joining thousands more as we witness the Oberammergau Passion Play. This five hour production (yes, five hours!) happens every ten years, although this particular production was delayed for two years because of the pandemic. Every person in the village is involved in some way. No exceptions.

Dating back to the Black Plague days in 1633, this small German village fulfills a promise its forefathers made to God. If, they pledged, He would spare their community, they would tell the world of the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ every ten years. God answered their prayers, and the promise has been kept for almost 400 years. Karen and I are scheduled to be there for the 42nd run of the show.

The marvel of this event for me – in addition to all the pageantry – is that this promise is being kept by people who were not directly impacted by the plague. Long before now, the citizens of Oberammergau could have decided that they did not want to be bound by something they had no say in. They didn't make the pledge, but now they have to do the work. And I will reap the benefits.

June marks the celebration of Pentecost, that day when God fulfilled a promise made by Jesus (see John 14:15ff). With the arrival of the Spirit, we are assured that God's presence is with us always. No matter where. No matter what.

This month I encourage you to celebrate with the community of faith the fulfillment of that very special promise.

OUTREACH CORNER

Save the Date: Sunday, July 10, Grace Outreach Breakfast Break will feature Ken and Penny Ekegren from the Malawi Orphan Care Project. The orphan project began in 2005 in Kanyenyeva, Malawi providing lunch to 125 children once or twice a week and now is providing lunch to approximately 800 children 6 days a week and sending 70 teens to high school. Come and learn more about all they have been able to do and how to support this wonderful ministry.

Annual Good Dad Award: The aim of the Good Dad Award is to recognize the significant role fathers play in their children's well-being and development, and to raise awareness of the value of fathers in their families and in their communities. The award identifies and honors outstanding fathers for their exceptional commitment to raising their children and/or for their exemplary contributions to the development of children in their communities.

In Clark County, the local Good Dad Awards will be presented at 2:00 PM on Saturday, June 18 during the annual Juneteenth/FatherFest event on the green in front of The Gammon House Museum, 620 Piqua Place, Springfield, Ohio. To learn more about The Good Dad Award and to nominate a good dad go to <https://urbanlight.org/good-dad-award/>

Juneteenth 2021 FatherFest: Saturday, June 18, from 11am to 7pm, at the Gammon House address listed above. There is a Parade at 11am, vendors with crafts and food, Quilt displays and tour the Gammon House. Please come out and enjoy the food and people and support Urban Light Ministries and their father initiative. See flyers around the church to sign up for the 5K that is on June 11 or to learn about the Juneteenth/ FatherFest event, or go to <https://gammonhouseoh.org/juneteenth/>

Kids Around the World: On Saturday, July 30, at 10:30 a.m., come to Grace and join us for a meal packing party. Kids Around the World empowers groups to be a part of the solution of childhood malnutrition. OneMeal food is packed and sponsored by partners and volunteers at their own packing events throughout the US and shipped overseas to serve malnourished children in orphanages, schools, homes, churches, and community feeding centers. Our event here at Grace will pack meals that will be sent to Ukrainian refugees overseas. Please come out and help us pack meals to help feed these people who have been forced out of their homes. Watch for a sign-up sheet to sign-up for a time to come and help on that Saturday. See Sandy Thompson for more information: spnrj@yahoo.com or 937-605-0416.



Since the writing of last month's Messenger article, our Congregational Profile has been shared with all the NALC churches in our denomination, so we expect some new candidates to present themselves in the next several weeks.

In response to the NALC's request to include a video with our profile, the committee has created a plan to provide content, photos, filming, and editing for a video, to submit by the end of May. In addition, our group has compiled a set of 2nd interview questions as we prep for candidates that make it through the first round of communication. The Call Committee will continue to submit monthly Messenger articles to keep everyone in the loop. Please continue to pray for us as we keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, acknowledging his presence in this process, and staying open to his guidance.

While much of the Call Committee's work is confidential in order to protect candidates who express interest, we encourage you to approach any of us with questions regarding the call process and where we are in that process at any time. We are blessed with a wonderful team – Elaine Bucey, Lori Fain, Leah Fraker, Steve Garrett (Council President and Ex-Officio Member), Mark Grimes, Stacey Laux (Secretary), Eric Leeth (Co-Chair), Su-Ann Newport (Co-Chair), Mike Ray and Matt Rugh – all of whom feel honored, humbled and called to serve in this ministry. While not a regular attendee of the committee's meetings, Pastor Tom Brodbeck continues to be a valuable resource to the committee.

Thank you for your continued prayers as we work to discern God's will for Grace. Matt Rugh

ENRICHING FOOD WITH HERBS

On June 26, Cathy Zernechel will give a presentation for the Women of Grace entitled "Enriching Food with Herbs." She will identify the herbs grown in the Grace Garden and share how they can be used. The presentation will be in the fellowship hall after worship, around 12:15 p.m.

If you have a favorite herb recipe to share, get it to Karen Brodbeck or Cathy Zernechel and we will make copies. Reservations can be made on the Grace App (please provide the location on the app).

Mark your calendar for this informative session and bring a friend.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

1 Corinthians 5:8

Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

When I read these words, I am reminded that Christ saved us from sin through His death on the cross. We have been redeemed and forgiven. That's a good reason to Celebrate. To know that Jesus loved us that much to sacrifice Himself.

To read His word and follow His teachings with sincerity and love is a testimony and acknowledgement that God is our Father. Our faith should always shine through to others in all that we do. Celebrate each and every day as though it was your last.

I am truly blessed to know the Lord. Cathy Zernechel

CELEBRATION CORNER



Celebrating this month is the Grace property ministry. Grace is blessed with a hard working group of volunteers that assist me in various areas of the building and grounds. Each season has a specific ministry team that is responsible for decorating the church grounds and /or building. We are blessed to have the Hanging of the Greens ministry who creatively decorate the church for the season of advent. Judy Fredrich and her team beautify the Grace grounds in the spring and summer with geraniums purchased by Grace members.

We celebrate those volunteers that work behind the scenes maintaining the activities of the church: technology team, church prep (what would we do without our morning cup of coffee), pew care, safety stewards, and scrub club. We would like to add a team of volunteer painters.

Late April work began on replacing the roof over the original sections of the building. The flat roof was torn off and replaced with pvc roofing material. It took 240 sq. of asphalt shingles to replace the original sections of the building. We are pleased with the appearance and the performance of the new roof.



Grace is blessed to have a great body in Christ! Robert

HEARTFELT THANKS

Dear Grace Family,

You have no idea how much it means when you are incapacitated and you receive all of these cards! Your thoughtfulness and continued prayers are very much appreciated! Blessings to all, Linda Fuschino

Dear Grace members and card ministry team,

Thank you for all the cards expressing words of appreciation and support during staff appreciation week. I`m blessed to serve God and our church family and appreciate the opportunity to do so. Sharing in His service, Cindy Witker

Dear Members,

Thank you for your kindness and comforting words. We gratefully appreciate your cards and kind expressions of sympathy during this difficult time. Ron was a humble man who had a servant's heart that overflowed with compassion for all people. God bless, Beverly Jones and the Ron Jones Family



"LIFE-TO-LIFE" DISCIPLE GROUP

The photo features one of many Grace's "Life-to-Life" Disciples group. Group members include: BACK – Cathy Noyes, Carol Carpenter, Connie Dellinger. FRONT – Barbara Blackburn, Connie Everhart, Elaine Shaftner. We meet in and around Springfield every two weeks. Currently, we are studying and discussing the Book of Ezekiel. Our tee-shirts read, "Sisters in Christ, Sisters for Life."

Team Photographer: Robert Thompson

JUNE EVENTS

Wednesday, June 1

Thursday, June 2

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
1:00 pm Service Quilt Guild
1:00 pm Brass group rehearsal
7:00 pm Praise Team rehearsal

Friday, June 3

Saturday, June 4

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, June 5

Day of Pentecost

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages
10:45 am Contemporary Worship
12:00 pm Youth Mission Trip mtg

Monday, June 6

1:00 pm Essence of Grace rehearsal

Tuesday, June 7

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

Wednesday, June 8

9:30 am Hope Guild
1:30 pm Charity Guild
5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Thursday, June 9

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
1:00 pm Service Quilt Guild

Friday, June 10

Saturday, June 11

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, June 12

The Holy Trinity

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

Monday, June 13

Tuesday, June 14

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

Wednesday, June 15

Thursday, June 16

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
1:00 pm Brass group rehearsal

Friday, June 17

Saturday, June 18

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, June 19

Father's Day

Youth depart on mission trip

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

Monday, June 20

1:00 pm Essence of Grace rehearsal
6:00 pm Prayer Support Team

Tuesday, June 21

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

Wednesday, June 22

Thursday, June 23

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

Friday, June 24

Saturday, June 25

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, June 26

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages
10:45 am Worship
12:00 pm Financial Stewardship
12:15 pm Enhancing Food with
Herbs Presentation

Monday, June 27

Tuesday, June 28

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

Wednesday, June 29

Thursday, June 30

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

**ADULT SUNDAY
SCHOOL**
MAY 29-JULY 3 9:15 AM



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

July is just around the corner. We are excited to be continuing Christmas in July again this year. This is an important ministry for our Grace family who are homebound. Last year, due to Covid we bought cookies from GFS. This option turned out very well, these high quality cookies received favorable reviews.

Grace members may volunteer through the Grace app in Sign- Up central to help deliver cookies to our home bound members. In addition, we are asking for donations to purchase cookies. Each GFS box contains 40 cookies and costs approximately \$13 a box, but you may donate any amount you wish.



Some Covid stipulations remain, with some nursing facilities requiring a 24-hour notice before delivering and visiting residents. Please check beforehand if the resident prefers us to visit or just drop off the cookies. We plan to deliver the cookies on or around July 22-23 weekend. Watch for the sign up in mid-June.

We wish to thank all our past volunteers and future volunteers. Our homebound residents appreciate this meaningful ministry and look forward to it each year. If you have questions regarding Christmas in July please call, text, or email Mary Beth Stelzer at 937-215-8805, marybstelz@sbcglobal.net.



CURRENT RESIDENT OR



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Evangelical Lutheran Church



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