

# Grace Messenger

AUGUST 2022



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## PASTOR'S REFLECTION

As some of you know, Karen and I spend two weeks in Germany earlier this summer, the highlight of which was going to the famous Oberammergau Passion Play. This experience has been on my "bucket list" for more than 30 years.

The play, offered every 10 years, certainly lived up to my expectations. The theatrics were incredible. When Jesus was nailed to the cross, you experienced his pain, and when the soldiers pierced his side, the blood ran out. A 100-voice choir and full orchestra supported this 5½ hour production.

But when people ask me what impressed me the most, it was none of those things. I was most impressed with the commitment of a small Bavarian village to faithfully honor a promise made in the mid-1600s to stage this play every ten years if God would deliver them. He did, and they have kept that promise.

And so, every 10 years, 150 performances are offered with 4200 people in attendance at each one. Do the math, and you will discover that 630,000 people hear and see the story of Jesus and the truth of His sacrifice for our sins.

I am praising God for the witness and for the faithfulness of a people over the centuries, and I am reminded that promises made to God need to be kept! May we each be that faithful in our own lives.



Please pray for the Call Committee as they continue in their search for Grace's next Associate Pastor.



## IT IS TIME TO REVIVE

After months of planning and years of praying, the leaders of our community have scheduled August 5-12 as a week of intentional evangelism and discipleship. It's "time to revive" Springfield.

The week launches with an opening worship service at High Street Nazarene Church at 6:30 on Friday, August 5. Then over the next seven days, teams of people will be released in our city and county to invite people to pray and to lead those interested in deeper conversations about having a vital relationship with Jesus. It is a very laid-back approach that results in many meaningful conversations.

The daily schedule begins with worship and training at our host church, High Street Nazarene. From there we go into the community in teams, each of us with an experienced person from all over the state of Ohio. Lunch will be at a different location each day with the afternoon following the same schedule as the morning. The evening concludes with dinner and worship, once again at High Street. On Sundays, we all worship in our home congregations before joining together again for an afternoon on the streets.

We encourage everyone at Grace to be involved, for a morning or two, an afternoon or two – as much as you wish. Learn more in the Revive Ohio Facebook page or at [www.ReviveOH.org](http://www.ReviveOH.org).

## 2023 SPRINGFIELD MISSION TRIP JUNE 25 – JULY 1, 2023

The Nehemiah Foundation, in partnership with Group Mission Trips, is sponsoring a home repair mission known as a "Group Workcamp" in Springfield, Ohio. At Group Workcamps, hundreds of teenagers from youth groups across the country repair and transform homes while deepening their faith and building new relationships with their peers and youth leaders.

The Springfield Workcamp is scheduled for June 25 through July 1, 2023. The projects in our community will serve the elderly, disabled, low-income, and veterans. Our goal is to complete 60 home repair projects that week!

In preparation for this event, the community will need to come together: we need to select homes and projects to complete, build several teams of volunteers, coordinate hospitality efforts, gather ladders, prepare worksites, deliver materials, raise funds and much more! There are so many ways to help. We are hosting a community kick-off event on August 23rd and YOU are invited! Email [Springfieldworkcamp@gmail.com](mailto:Springfieldworkcamp@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Kick off event – 9:00 to 10:00 AM Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

## EVEN BEFORE

Throughout this calendar year, our congregation has been encouraged to "Celebrate" all the many ways God has blessed us corporately and individually. Hopefully, you have been able to share some of your celebrations with your fellow Grace family members, and also been able to enjoy some of the chocolates located in the narthex as you do. (Thanks to Janet Rice for that idea and for keeping the basket full.)

Recently, I helped myself to some of those chocolates as I celebrated these words of God recorded in Isaiah 65:24: "Before they call I will answer." Martin Luther, in his "Lectures on Isaiah", made this observation:

This is a very lovely promise ... This promise is extremely necessary for strengthening our hearts and inciting them to pray. In the presence of God our prayers are regarded in such a way that they are answered before we call. The prayer of the righteous man is answered before it is finished, before the prayer begins to formulate ...

Luther goes on to conclude that we should enter our times of prayer with great anticipation. Do we? Do you pray expectantly? Do you think anything will happen because you spent those few moments with your head bowed and eyes closed? Do you think God even hears?

If you do, that is a great cause for celebration. Have a chocolate! Pastor Brodbeck

## OUTREACH CORNER

**Snowhill School Supply Drive:** During the month of August, we will be collecting school supplies for Snowhill School. Tissues, black dry erase markers, glue sticks, one subject notebooks, and backpacks are a few of the needed items, but please see the list available in the narthex or on the Grace App and/or Website for a full list. Return items in the box out in the Narthex as well by August 28. See Sandy Thompson for more information.

**St John's Food Pantry:** August is one of our months to serve at St John's food pantry. They could use bread, Ramen Noodles and toiletry items. Please have donations turned in soon as possible, but no later than Aug 28. See Judy Fredrich for more information about serving or helping.

**NALC Disaster Response:** Steve and Andy Schumacher will be taking another trip to assist victims of disasters in Southwestern Kentucky. They will be going the first week of October, 3-7. If you have any interest in joining them and the team they have been working with, please reach out to Steve at 937-624-7074.

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## HEARTFELT THANKS

What a wonderful surprise, "Christmas in July!" We have always been on the delivery of cookies, but now we have been blessed with receiving. We have missed everyone, Jim and Barb Kestner

Dear Friends at Grace,

Thank you so much for your outpouring of beautiful cards, scripture, and personal sentiments. It is fun to hear from long-time Springfield friends again. Your cards are certainly a manifestation of God's love. When I am having a bad day or fearful moment, I pull a card out of my special box to get spiritual inspiration. Jim and I value our time in Springfield, along with you, our dear Grace community.

Thanks again, Love, Suzanne Goodell

Thanks to all those members who sent me such wonderfully encouraging cards at a time when I was downcast. You lifted my spirit with your kind, caring words. Grace Church is truly a blessing! Clem Meyer

To the Friends at Grace Lutheran...thanks for the cookies, it was an unexpected surprise! Love, Joe Mowers

Thank you to all who prayed for me while I had hiatal hernia repair on April 27. I expected to be home within the week, instead I did not get home until June 10, 2022. I received 65 get well cards via home, OSU and Wooded Glen. Each card was a spark of sunshine and blessing for me and I thank you for each one. Agnes Smoot



## CELEBRATION CORNER

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### CELEBRATING GRACE OUTREACH MINISTRIES

It is my privilege to write this month's article of Celebration for Grace's ministries. This month we are celebrating our Outreach ministries. Outreach has been busy so far this year and has much to celebrate. Our Garden ministry is hard at work and going strong. Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving for the endless hours that Terry Fredrich, Jerry Angst and their team put in for the wonderful food production and financial support this allows to local food ministries.

We also celebrate our ability to support local ministries through our Breakfast Breaks. So far this year we've donated \$1,777.00 to Safe Harbor House and \$1,202.00 to Interfaith Hospitality Network as well as a fully stocked Welcome Home Kit for a new home owner. Our congregation's generosity is outstanding.

We also celebrate our ability through the generosity of our Endowment Team annual distributions to help Family and Youth Initiatives pay for an unexpected new furnace, to sponsor five children at Naomi's Heart Mission, and to help cover costs for packing meals with Kids Around the World to send over to Ukrainian refugees.

We will have more to celebrate as we plan another trip to Laurel Mission in October as well. Please reach out to Sandy Thompson if you'd like to join us the last week of October, 24-28 for all or part of the week.



**Wednesdays**

**August 24 – Nov. 16, 2022**

**6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**ALL SESSIONS IN GRACE PARLOR**

**Register on the Grace app or website**

**August 24      Is This Normal?**

**August 31      Challenges of Grief**

# AUGUST EVENTS

**Monday, August 1**  
6:00 pm VBS

**Tuesday, August 2**  
8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/  
office closed  
5:00 pm Grace Notes rehearsal  
6:00 pm VBS

**Wednesday, August 3**  
6:00 pm VBS

**Thursday, August 4**  
11:00 am Adult Bible Study  
1:00 pm Service Quilt Guild

**Friday, August 5**

**Saturday, August 6**  
8:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, August 7**  
8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:45 am Contemporary Worship

**Monday, August 8**

**Tuesday, August 9**  
8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/  
office closed  
6:00 pm Executive Committee

**Wednesday, August 10**  
1:30 pm Charity Guild

**Thursday, August 11**  
11:00 am Adult Bible Study  
1:00 pm Service Quilt Guild

**Friday, August 12**

**Saturday, August 13**  
8:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, August 14**  
8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:45 am Worship

**Monday, August 15**  
1:00 pm Essence of Grace rehearsal  
6:00 pm Prayer Support Team

**Tuesday, August 16**  
8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/  
office closed  
7:00pm Grace Council meeting

**Wednesday, August 17**

**Thursday, August 18**  
11:00 am Adult Bible Study

**Friday, August 19**

**Saturday, August 20**  
8:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, August 21**  
8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for all  
ages  
10:45 am Worship

**Monday, August 22**

**Tuesday, August 23**  
8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff  
meeting/  
office closed

**Wednesday, August 24**  
6:30 pm GriefShare

**Thursday, August 25**  
11:00 am Adult Bible Study  
6:00 pm Culture Crew

**Friday, August 26**

**Saturday, August 27**  
8:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, August 28**  
8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:45 am Worship

**Monday, August 29**

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

**Wednesday, August 31**  
6:30 pm GriefShare

## JUST SO YOU KNOW... SO WE'LL KNOW!

Grace members and staff have the opportunity to join you in prayer when you inform us of your prayer requests. Requests may be submitted through the Grace app, written on prayer cards found on the small table in the back of the sanctuary, and phoning the church office, 937-399-6257.

We rely on Grace members and their families to inform us of hospitalizations and other needs. The hospitals and care facilities DO NOT notify Grace. We are honored to visit you when that is your desire, but many times we are not informed. Again, please contact us so we'll know.

When filling out Prayer Request Cards:  
Please remember to tell us how we can join you in prayer and who is requesting the prayer. We will not share your prayer request unless you ask us to do so.

**Prayer Request**

Please write your praise statement or prayer request below so that your Grace faith family can join you in prayer. Place this card in the prayer box in the narthex, or give it to any usher.

I am praising: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

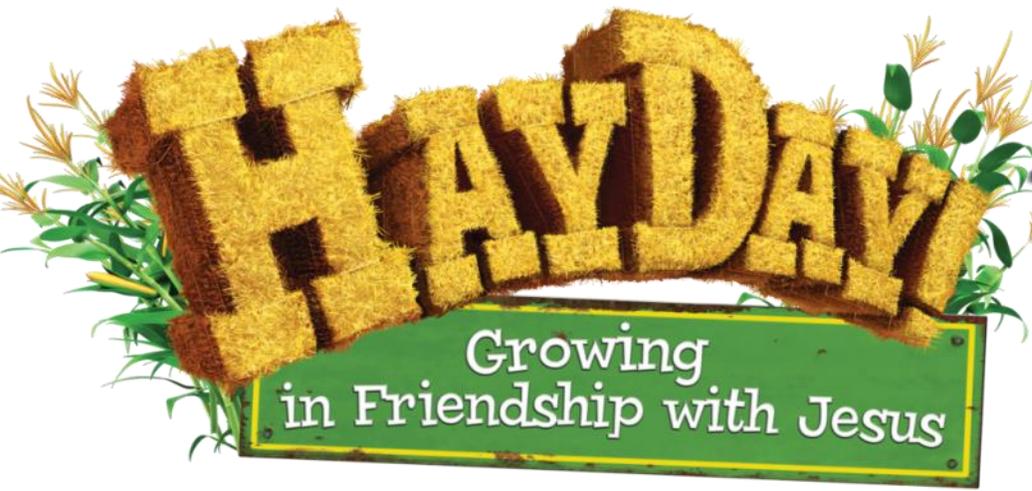
I am asking prayer for: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I am asking please that this:  
 *not* be shared publicly  
 be included during worship prayer.  
 be included on Grace's praise & prayer sheet.  
 be sent out through Grace's prayer chain.

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_



**HAYDAY VBS IS HERE!**

**AUGUST 1-3, 2022      6-9 P.M.      KIDS 4 YEARS-4th GRADE**

**SIGN-UP ON THE GRACE APP OR WEBSITE**

**GET MOOVIN' & INVITE YOUR FRIENDS !**

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



www.grace-nalc.org 937.399.6257

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Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace



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