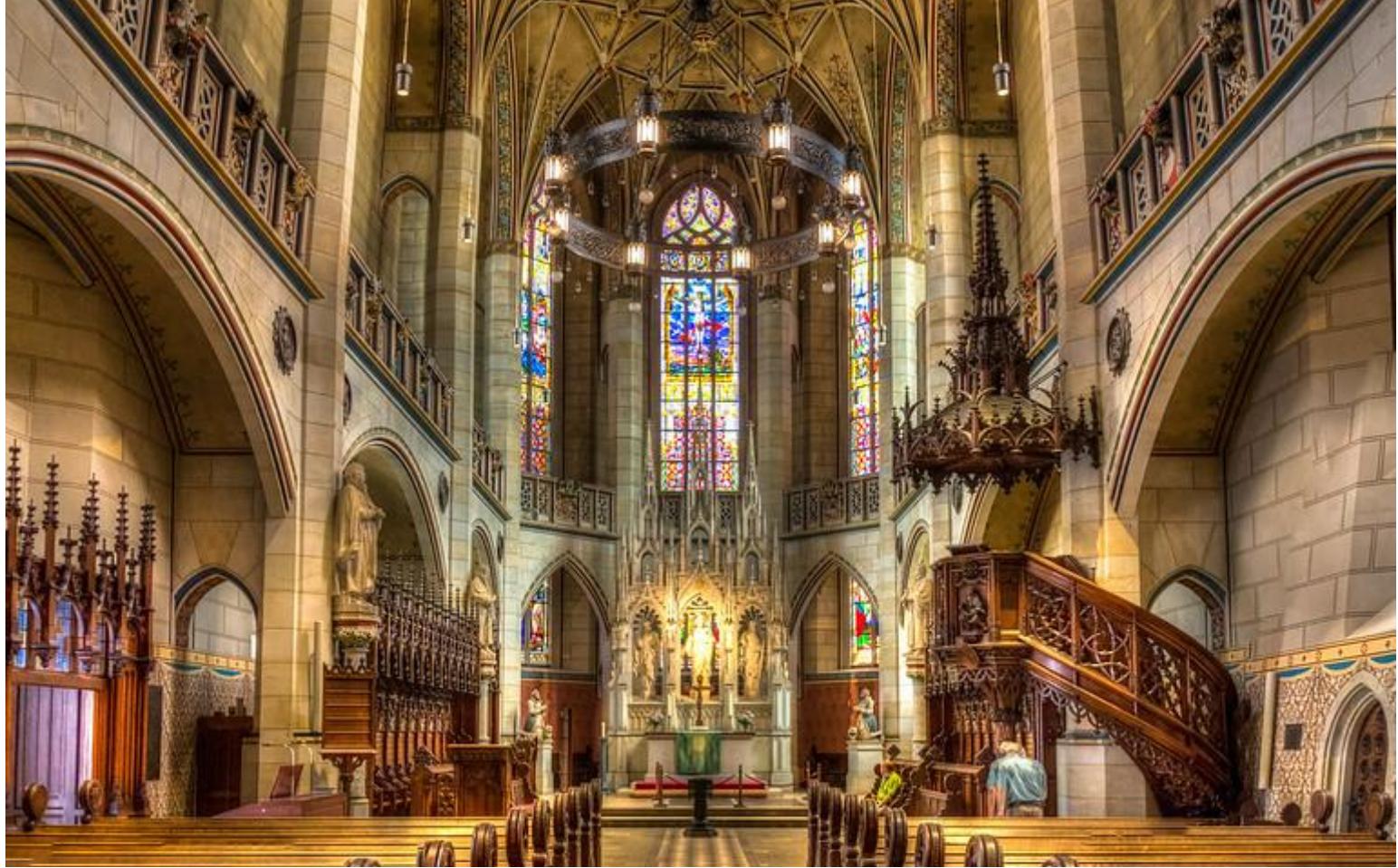


Grace Messenger

October 2022



PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Earlier this summer our vacation took Karen and me to Wittenberg Germany, home to Martin Luther and a sister city to Springfield. We were there during the wedding anniversary celebration of Luther and Katharina von Bora. It was quite the festival – the largest such event I've ever seen. It took us two full days to see everything.

No trip to Wittenberg would be complete without a visit to the Castle Church where Luther posted his 95 theses. Legend has it that those were posted on the door of the church. It is far more likely a community bulletin board was located next to those doors and the document was posted there instead. Today the original doors have been replaced with doors cast in bronze and emblazoned with the theses.

As is true with all those German cathedrals, the Castle Church, both inside and out, is incredibly ornate and awe-inspiring. I took lots of pictures. Because it is “the most important building in the history of the Reformation” (according to the Wittenberg tourist association), it is a very popular tourist site, one that has been recognized as a UNESCO world heritage site.

That day though I wondered what these tourists, myself included, would have been doing if Luther had opted to remain silent instead of raising his objections to the teachings of the church. Would we even be there? Would anyone care what day he got married?

The truth is we only remember him because he spoke up when he saw the church teaching something contrary to Holy Scripture. As a congregation, we will remember again on the last Sunday of October (October 30). Let's be reminded not only of the truth he proclaimed but our responsibility to be voices of truth in our day as well.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee conducted in person second interviews with several individuals. One candidate visited Grace mid-July for a second interview. He was referred by the call committee to council and returned with his wife in August to visit Grace and tour the surrounding community. After a period of discernment, he withdrew his name from the call process.

We are continuing our efforts in the call process and working with Pastor Shelly Schultz, NALC to that end. Leah Fraker has been working with Matt Cline to produce a video to accompany Grace's Congregational Profile. We also are reaching out to the North American Lutheran Seminary in Ambridge, Pennsylvania to see if there are seminarians who may be available for internship or call.

The Call Committee's work is confidential to protect candidates who may be serving another church. We encourage you to approach any of us with questions regarding the call process. We are blessed with a competent dedicated 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 have been working diligently through the NALC call process. Pastor Tom Brodbeck provides leadership on the call process and is a valuable resource to the committee. Please continue to pray as we work to discern God's will for Grace. Su-Ann Newport

THREE NEW STAFF POSITIONS

Grace is in the process of recruiting three new staff members to join our team.

First, we are searching for a Director of Children and Family Ministry. This full-time position will be the advocate for future generations of the church and will foster an atmosphere that ensures the family of God works together to make disciples of the youngest members of our congregation. The DCFM will work with families of all our youth and children (cradle through high school) and have specific responsibilities for the children's ministry (cradle through 8th grade).

The second position is a Director of Youth Ministry. This position ministers to and serves an advocate for the youth (grades 9-12). This position is charged with creating an atmosphere where these young people mature in their faith and become spiritual leaders in their churches and schools. This will be a part-time position.

The third position is titled Executive Director. This position will only be filled if we are unable to call an Associate Pastor in a relatively short amount of time. We will conduct this search while our Call Committee continues its work. The person who fills this role will assume many of the leadership and administrative duties Pastor Brodbeck is filling currently, allowing him to focus more on the spiritual leadership and parish care components of his ministry.

Job descriptions and application packets for each of these positions are available on the Grace website under the "Employment" tab. Printed copies may be found in the "Pick Up" located on the desk in the church's front office. All three positions will remain open until filled. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Brodbeck or Council President Steve Garrett.

CELEBRATION CORNER

As we celebrate Grace Ministry Areas this year, this month we are celebrating our Music Ministries. Grace has been blessed with a wonderful variety of talented musicians among our members, and our worship services provide these musicians with weekly opportunities to share their carefully developed talents to the glory of God.

Godly music encourages us and inspires us in hard times. It gives us joy and lifts us up. "*Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*" (Colossians 3:16) Our music is an expression of grateful hearts toward God. It is acknowledging that we owe everything to Him who loves us so deeply and is the result of our personal relationship with Him. These thoughts and feelings are the inspiration which lead our many vocal soloists and instrumentalists (with flute, guitar, violin, cello, trumpet, piano, organ) to choose songs that touch their hearts, and, in turn, express messages of hope, peace, and joy which allow them to be a blessing to those who attend worship or watch online.

And our Lord has blended the talents of individuals at Grace into our choirs of voices, praise teams, handbells, handchimes, and brass/string groups. We are celebrating and praising our Lord for the unique way He has joined our hearts and spirits to produce meaningful, inspiring and joyful songs of praise and thanksgiving. All of this happens as God works in each of us to be amazingly generous with our time, our preparation of music, and with our combined talents and testimonies to share with others. Bev Kaech

OCTOBER EVENTS

Saturday, October 1

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, October 2

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for youth
9:15 am Outreach Break
10:45 am Contemporary Worship

Monday, October 3

1:00 pm Essence of Grace

Tuesday, October 4

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

Wednesday, October 5

5:30 pm GraceNotes rehearsal
6:00 pm Wed. Night Dinner
6:30 pm GriefShare
7:00 pm 9-12 Youth Group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir
7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, October 6

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

Friday, October 7

Saturday, October 8

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, October 9

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

Monday, October 10

Tuesday, October 11

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, October 12

9:30 am Hope Guild
1:30 pm Charity Guild
5:30 pm GraceNotes rehearsal
6:00 pm Wed. Night Dinner
6:30 pm GriefShare
7:00 pm 9-12 Youth Group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir
7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, October 13

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

Friday, October 14

Saturday, October 15

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, October 16

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

Monday, October 17

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

Tuesday, October 18

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

7:00pm Grace Council meeting

Wednesday, October 19

5:30 pm GraceNotes rehearsal
6:00 pm Wed. Night Dinner
6:30 pm GriefShare
7:00 pm 9-12 Youth Group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir
7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, October 20

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
7:00 pm Endowment meeting

Friday, October 21

Saturday, October 22

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, October 23

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

Monday, October 24

Tuesday, October 25

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

Wednesday, October 26

5:30 pm GraceNotes rehearsal
6:00 pm Wed. Night Dinner
6:30 pm GriefShare
7:00 pm 9-12 Youth Group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir
7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, October 27

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

Friday, October 28

Saturday, October 29

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, October 30

Reformation Sunday

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

Monday, October 31

HEARTFELT THANKS

It has taken me far too long in sending my grateful thanks to my Grace family.

Your heartwarming cards and most thoughtful letters have helped me so very much in my adjustment to Oakwood.

Yes, I miss seeing you, and our 'face to face' greetings. However, I still feel a strong relationship through our Sunday Worship Service (ZOOM), the monthly Messenger, daily prayers, visits, and our Grace Card Ministry (which I will continue to serve.)

May God Bless and Keep you!

Jane Kreider

OCTOBER OUTREACH CORNER



Reminder: Breakfast Break will be Sunday, October 2, during the Sunday School hour. Kim and Kevin Moore from Living Water Lutheran Church in Centerville, Ohio and Kit Brunson from SMI, Haiti, will be sharing with us, their mission work in Haiti. Hope to see you there.

Jonah Project: It is also known as the Clark County Jail Chaplaincy. It has a new interim director, Clarence Moss. Clarence has been in AmeriCorps Vista with the program for almost 3 years now and has taken over the reins from Tony Bailey. They are in need of volunteers to help minister to the inmates 1 on 1 and, also help with programming and administrative tasks. If you have any interest in being a part of this valuable ministry, please reach out to Sandy Thompson (937-605-0416).



Laurel Mission, Big Laurel, KY: As our team prepares to make a mission trip in late October, we would like to request your support in supplying items of need for the Laurel Mission. They need Bibles. Grace can purchase a case of 40 for \$80 if you'd like to donate for Bibles. They also need canned meat products such as tuna, chicken, spam, etc. which we will collect in the Narthex. We could also use financial support toward our supplies for the project we will be completing. Please reach out to Sandy Thompson (937-605-0416) if you'd like to donate towards Bibles or financial assistance for supplies, or if you'd like to join us. We will be taking our trip the week of Oct. 24. Some will go for the entire week and some will go Wed. to Sat. You won't regret this opportunity to help people in need right here in the US. Your prayers for a safe and spirit-led trip would also be much appreciated. Deadline for donations is Sunday, Oct. 23.

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