

Grace Messenger

November 2022



THREE SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

As the church calendar year winds toward its conclusion, Grace will celebrate three very special worship services before Advent begins on November 27. (You can read more about Advent in another article.)

November 6 is All Saints' Day. *Both services will include a time of celebrating those individuals who were baptized in the past 12 months (known as the Church Militant) and those who have died during the same span (known as the Church Triumphant).* It would be impossible for us to remember all of the relatives for all of our congregation, so we limit our remembrances to those who were members of our church or whose funerals were presided over by a Grace pastor.

November 20 is Christ the King Sunday, the official last day of the church year calendar. On that day we celebrate the victorious Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of lords.

Finally, on November 22, we host our annual Thanksgiving Service. This 7 p.m. Tuesday night service allows you to gather with your church family to thank God for His abundance grace and love. It's a nice time to stop and reflect before the busyness of the Christmas rush begins. Please plan to join us!

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

You've seen those fill-in-the-blank discussion starters before. This one read "I am very thankful for _____." I could have quickly answered it with the basic and expected answers: spouse, kids, grandkids, church, home, and so on. And I could have been a bit glib and expressed thanks for Ohio State Football or chocolate chip cookies. But for some reason, I took the blank line more seriously this time.

Yes, I am thankful for all those things I could have written there, very thankful, in fact. But this year, I am the most thankful for all those things I don't know about. Huh? I'm thankful for the accidents that never happened because I got delayed, or had a chance to leave early, the random acts of kindness done by people in our congregation that never came to my attention, the ways that God touches the lives of people I've never met (some of whom may be viewers to our broadcasted services). I'm thankful that God is so big that I could never know all that He does.

The Scriptures says "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good" (1 Chronicles 16:34). Indeed, He is. Even when I don't know what He has done.

CAREPORTAL

Over the past six years, churches and their members have been stepping up and responding to the urgent needs of vulnerable children and families throughout Ohio. Today, more than 150 church response teams in Ohio are using the approach of CarePortal. Churches and community members have created an economic impact of \$1.6 million to help stabilize and strengthen families in crisis, prevent children from entering foster care, and safely reunite children with their biological family, and we're just getting started.

Over the last several months, Sandy Thompson, Darla Kalifoot, and I have been building a relationship with local churches and CarePortal and now it's time to roll out the plan to our congregation. The goal of this article is to make Grace members aware of yet another opportunity to sign up and connect with our community. We'll be unifying our efforts with local churches and schools to positively impact kids and their families. Check out some of the videos on www.careportal.org!

As we learned more about the process, something that really stood out, was what goes into deciding who gets the assistance through CarePortal and who does not. Teachers and counselors throughout the Springfield City School system send the initial referral to the district's Family Outreach Department. That awesome three-person team starts by checking what local, state, and/or federal funding can be tapped. In a case-by-case system, requests are sent out to churches only after this first step is complete, as long as the request is deemed appropriate/in line with the CarePortal's philosophy. It's a very impressive and thorough vetting process.

Have we piqued your curiosity or your passion? In closing, I want to be clear as to what "signing up" at the table in the Narthex actually means. We have scheduled a meeting on November 10th at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall where we will describe in more detail the different roles involved and to help you decide IF and/or HOW you want to be involved (everything from transportation of supplies, to providing food, money, mentoring, and beyond).

We know this system works, and Grace certainly has the means and numbers to join other churches in the Springfield area on this mission. Thank you for your consideration, and God Bless!



**To volunteer for CarePortal
scan the QR code**

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Our Surviving the Holidays seminar is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. You'll learn:

- How to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to discover hope for your future

Surviving the Holidays event lasts for about two hours. You'll be welcomed by warm, caring people who understand what you are going through and who want to help. During our time together, you will:

- Watch a 40-minute video, filled with practical holiday survival tips and the real-life stories of people who have navigated the season after their loved one's death.
- Hear other seminar attendees explain how they are dealing with the holidays.
- Have the opportunity to share how grief is affecting you. (No pressure—this is optional. We want you to feel comfortable.)
- Receive a personal copy of the GriefShare Holiday Survival Guide.

Join us in the Grace Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 20 at 4 p.m. Call the Grace office at 937.399.6257 to register. There is no cost to attend, and the event is open to all.





ADVENT BEGINS NOVEMBER 27

'Tis the season already! Earlier this week, I put the finishing touches on all the details for our celebration of Advent 2022. Our theme this year is "Experience the Wonder." We will emphasize those components of the Jesus story that cause us to wonder.

As a verb, the dictionary defines wonder as: *To be filled with admiration, amazement or awe; to marvel.* As a noun, that definition is: *A feeling of surprise or puzzled interest, sometimes tinged with admiration; the excitement of what is strange and surprising.*

Think of those moments of wonder as "Wow" moments. We can easily picture the "wonder" in a child's eyes as she sees the Christmas lights or the pile of presents under the tree. Our goal is to create that same "wonder" as we tell the story of Christmas.

Our theme verse is captured in Luke 2:18-19, describing the moments after the shepherds saw the Christ child and began their journey back to the fields:

*And all who heard it **wondered** at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. (Luke 2:18-19)*

In addition to our regular Sunday morning worship schedule (8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.), we will worship on three Thursday evenings (December 1, 8, 15) at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve will once again feature two services. At 6:30 p.m. our service will be geared toward families with children. It will include the stable processional. (Rehearsal for that will be on Friday, December 23 at noon.) The 9:00 p.m. service will feature many of your favorite songs and selections from multiple ensembles and soloists. Both services will include the Festival of Lights. Invite your friends and family to experience the wonder of this season with you at Grace!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual fall congregational meeting will be held during the Adult Sunday School hour (9:15 – 10:15 a.m.) on Sunday, November 20. This is a very important meeting for our congregation. We will vote on the 2023 budget and elect members to the Church Council and Endowment Committee, as well as hear updates on other major matters in our church.

By the time you read this article you should have received a copy of the proposed budget and a letter identifying the nominees to be elected. If you have not, please contact the Grace office at 937.399.6257.

CELEBRATE

Why celebrate? We are commanded to do so. What? Who? When? In Exodus 12:18. God speaks to Moses, "for generations to come, you are to celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance." An ordinance not a suggestion. It is a command, decree, or law. The first Passover meal was celebrated while the Israelites were still slaves in Egypt. In obedience, blood from a perfect lamb was placed on doorposts. All the first born were spared as the Angel of death passed over their homes. Their obedience gave them freedom from slavery as they left Egypt.

Numbers 9:2 (one year later): After God's people had been in the Desert of Sinai, God commanded Moses "let the children of Israel celebrate the Passover at the appointed time." Joshua 5:10: Again, as the Israelites entered the Promised Land 39 years later, Joshua had God's people celebrate the Festival of Passover. Luke 2:42 (almost 40 generations later): We read that Jesus, age 12, and his family are in Jerusalem, obediently to celebrate the Festival of Passover.

Matt. 26: 17-29, Mark 14:12-25, Luke 22:7-38: As an adult, Jesus goes with his disciples to Jerusalem to celebrate the Festival of Passover, known as The Last Supper. Why did Jesus do it? Obedience. He gave us a 'lasting ordinance' to do the same. We call it Holy Communion. Why do we celebrate obedience in remembrance of Him, the Perfect Lamb, who shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins? In gratitude, we celebrate the Lord's Supper as a precious gift to us as a community of faith, thankful for the gift of grace.

Now a Marty Haugen tune comes to mind: "Now the feast and celebration, all creation sings for joy, now is the Feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God."

Sing it. And let's CELEBRATE. Jim and Melody Leonard

SPRINGFIELD MISSION TRIP UPDATE

As of 5 October, we have 166 campers signed up for the Springfield Workcamp, 14 resident applications, and \$26,050 raised for the project. We are on track for a very successful mission trip in our community! At this point, we are going to stop actively fundraising, as we are in a good position financially for the event. The focus right now is disseminating and receiving applications – so please share the information with people you know: FREE home repair projects for elderly, disabled, low-income, and veteran residents. Hard copy applications are available at the church, or you can use this QR code to submit an electronic application. God is Good!!



OUTREACH CORNER

St John's Food Pantry: November is one of our months to serve at St John's Food Pantry on Wednesday mornings. If you are interested in helping to distribute food please contact Judy Fredrich at 937-925-1177. They could also use bread, toilet paper, soap, laundry or dish soap, and personal hygiene items. PLEASE PLACE IN ST JOHN'S GROCERY CART BY 11/20/22

Snow-ember Coat Drive: Grace's annual coat drive will focus on local kids in need again this year. We will be collecting new coats for our friends at Snowhill School and Children's Rescue Center. Please watch for coat shaped tags in the Narthex in early November to help match up a specific coat for a specific need or child. PLEASE keep the tags with the coat donated. Coats due back by November 27, 2022.

Baskets of Grace: Formerly Christmas Food Baskets, our team will be collecting food items to prepare boxes and deliver to needy families for Thanksgiving time again this year. Please watch the Narthex for cards labeled with food items needed to fill the boxes/baskets and return by November 20, 2022 Please only bring items identified on the cards. Please Contact Kristi Leeth with any questions.

STUFF THE TRUCK EVENT

Grace will host a "stuff the truck" event November 18-20, 2022. Drop off times at the Grace community center, 1801 Saint Paris Pike Springfield, will be Friday & Saturday, 18 & 19, from 3 - 6pm, and Sunday, Nov. 20, 12- 3pm, or by appointment.



This collection drive is not for clothes, but for "in good condition" furniture, kitchen cookware/serving ware and good clean bedding.

Call Steven Schumacher if you have any questions or plans to drop off goods at 937-624-7074. Tax donation forms will be available.

CHARITY AUCTION DECEMBER 3

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Our charity auction will be back this year and we are once again looking for items from all of our "crafty people!" We had a nice variety last year and we are hopeful you will support this activity again this year.

So mark your calendar for Saturday, December 3, 2022 9:00 a.m. - noon and join us in the community center for a morning of fun!

This year's charity is Young Life.

SECURITY STEPS

In order to ensure the peace and safety of our church and Sunday services, we ask that you **always enter the church building(s) using the main narthex doors**. All other doors in the building will remain locked at all times. **All doors can be used as exits**, but once outside, you will only be able to enter through the main doors. This is an easy step we can take to secure our building, our services and most importantly our families. This message is from the Grace Council.

HEARTFELT THANKS

Glenn and Judy Cary and Judy's mother Margaret "Peg" Altizer, would like to thank everyone who sent cards and prayers during the recent loss of Peg's husband Warren Altizer. They were a great comfort to the family and so very much appreciated. Many thanks to the Grace Card Ministry.

Dear Ones,

Eleven weeks have passed since my shoulder surgery. It's been quite a journey, and God blessed me with a husband who has stayed by my side to address whatever I require. God continues to bless me with the delivery of many beautiful and heartfelt cards, prayers, gorgeous floral bouquets, gift cards for meals, delicious homemade meals, various special gifts, texts, phone calls, and warm, friendly visits. Mel Leonard is lovingly devoting her time to teaching my Sunday school students while I'm out.

Today my doctor was pleased with my range of motion and now I'm building my strength. He inquired about the pain and told me it'll be there for about a year. He said the muscle had been annihilated and needed to be built back up. Who knew a fall on concrete could create such damage? Believe me, I will be very empathetic to others who find themselves in this position.

We will always remember your kindness and unending love. Thank you for sharing your time and prayers. You have seen us through this long, uncomfortable ordeal and we thank God for you.

Love in Him, Deb and Tom O'Neal

Grace Family,

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, visits and phone calls in my behalf these past few weeks. They all were an inspiration to me and kept me lifted up. I treasure my involvement and friends at Grace. I have missed all of you. It was good to be back in church today.

Blessings! Gene Roller

NOVEMBER EVENTS



Tuesday, November 1

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

Wednesday, November 2

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, November 3

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

Friday, November 4

Saturday, November 5

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, November 6

All Saints Sunday

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

Monday, November 7

10:00 am Essence of Grace
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry C.E.

Tuesday, November 8

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, November 9

10:00 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, November 10

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
1:00 pm Service Quilt Guild
7:00 pm Care Portal meeting

Friday, November 11

Saturday, November 12

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, November 13

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

Monday, November 14

7:00 pm Agape Guild

Tuesday, November 15

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

Wednesday, November 16

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, November 17

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

Friday, November 18

Stuff the Truck

Saturday, November 19

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
Stuff the Truck

Sunday, November 20

Christ the King

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for youth
9:15 am Congregational meeting
10:45 am Worship

Monday, November 21

10:00 am Essence of Grace rehearsal
6:00 pm Prayer Support Team

Tuesday, November 22

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

Wednesday, November 23

12-5:00 pm *Grace office closed*

Thursday, November 24

Thanksgiving
Grace office closed

Friday, November 25

Grace office closed

Saturday, November 26

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, November 27

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

Monday, November 28

Tuesday, November 29

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

Wednesday, November 30

5:30 pm GraceNotes rehearsal
7:00 pm 9-12 Youth Group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

The policy for how and when Grace worship and/or other ministries might be closed or cancelled due to inclement weather is as follows: Pastor Brodbeck will use the One Call Now service that allows each of our households to receive a phone call when we cancel services. Television station WHIO channel 7 will also be alerted. A post will be made on the Grace Facebook page, a notification will be sent out on the Grace APP and a response message will be placed on our telephone answering machine system at Grace.

NOW THAT
Faith
HAS
Come

A STUDY OF GALATIANS

BETH MOORE



SAVE THE DATE!

Women's Monday Night Bible Study January 9—February 13, 2023
Facilitated by Kristi Leeth

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Springfield, OH
Permit #158

Evangelical Lutheran Church
1801 St. Paris Pike
Springfield, OH 45504

