

Needed

The Service Quilters' guild is looking for donations of sheets. Any size or color will work. The sheets are used as backing on the quilts. You can drop them off in the front office. Each year the Service Quilters' guild send quilts out to Lutheran World Relief and to the NALC Disaster Relief efforts. If you are interested to learn more about the Service Quilters guild contact Rebecca Stutchell or Janet Rice.

Kitchen Ministry

Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Fellowship takes place around a table, which is the focus of the Kitchen Ministries. All are a little different in their acts of service, but all involve food and fellowship.

An event begins with a conversation with an outreach ministry or a family who just lost a loved one. Menus are shared and plans are made. Not much else happens until prep day. If you like to bake, you pick a recipe. If that is not your thing, there is meat to prepare, vegetables to chop and tables to set....and there is conversation and fellowship.

The day of the event starts early with bread baking, and unfinished preparations from the day before. The team arrives 2 hours before the event to assemble salad, finish desserts, make drinks and get things in the oven...and there is conversation and fellowship.

There is flurry of activity at "crunch time," the last 30 minutes, when everything goes out. Little conversation and little fellowship.

As the meal is served, pans are washed and clean up begins. We gather around a table and consume what we prepared and enjoy a brief rest...and there is conversation and fellowship.

The event concludes with dishes and clean up. Not anyone's favorite....but there is conversation and fellowship.

The day ends with tired feet, the satisfaction of a job well done, a ministry served, and the pleasure of working with others... enjoying the conversation and the fellowship.



Kitchen Ministries comprise all things food. Most are familiar with Fellowship on Sunday morning served between services. The Bereavement team serves a meal after funerals. Table of Grace comes alongside Community Ministry groups to provide a low-cost banquet, allowing the groups to retain more of the fundraising dollars. The Hospitality Team fills in the gaps to serve the miscellaneous activities that arrive during the year. See Janet Rice to sign up for any of the teams.

MESSENGER



*A reflection for this
years month of
June, 2023*

A Letter From The Pastor

BY TOM BRODBECK

When you are listening for it, inspiration comes from the most unusual sources. For example, while listening to the morning weather forecast yesterday the meteorologist reminded us that healthy plants need water regularly. Something in the way she said it made me think of those familiar words in the Beatitudes: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness ..." (Matthew 5:6). Aha!

She unwittingly pointed out to be an important connection between health and thirst. I often see rain as an inconvenience. It usually comes on a day I had planned to mow my grass or one when our family had other outdoor plans. But she caused me to see that the rains come because part of God's creation is thirsty.

How wonderful to know that my God "rains" His blessings on my life when I too am thirsty for Him. Here is His promise: (Jesus speaking) "The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14).
Rain down on me, Lord! This is my prayer.

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June Outreach Corner



Save the Date: Sunday July 9th: Our Breakfast Break will feature Aaron Earlywine from CarePortal and Tami Carter our local Careportal/Streamline Initiative Director at The Nehemiah Foundation. CarePortal connects local families in need with local churches to help meet urgent needs they have and is especially designed to keep kids out of foster care. Members will receive email notifications about needs we receive from local schools or agencies and can decide if they are able to help meet that need. It could include donating a mattress, funding car repairs or rent/utilities, donating hygiene supplies or groceries/meals, delivering items we collect or being part of the team that follows up with the family to see how they are doing. Come and learn more about all they have been able to do and how to be a part of this wonderful ministry. See Sandy Thompson for more information.



Last year Grace sponsored 5 children from Naomi's Heart Mission. We received beautiful pictures and thank you cards from each child. Would you consider extending this sponsorship for one of them? For a cost of \$360 per year you would provide all school fees, uniform, school supplies, textbooks and helps pay for teachers and other school expenses. Contact Sandy Thompson for more information or see their website: <https://www.naomisheartmission.org/sponsor-a-child/>



Natural Disasters are happening at an ever-increasing rate. From floods to hurricanes to tornadoes. The NALC Disaster Response team is busy year round helping the victims of these disasters all over the United States. During the month of June, we will be collecting Flood Buckets and Health Care Kits to help the victims of these disasters. Please see the Narthex display or the Grace website for

directions on what and how to pack one of these kits. See Sandy Thompson or Steve Schumacher for more information. Disasters are also happening around the world. If you are interested in helping international disaster victims, consider Lutheran World Relief: <https://lwr.org/>

Adult Sunday School in June

A great big "thank you" is extended to Eric Leeth for his wonderful Adult Sunday School class on "The Screwtape Letters." That class continues into June, wrapping up on June 11.

June 18 will feature a presentation on the work of the NALC's disaster relief efforts. Grace members Steve and Andy Schumacher have been very involved with this important ministry and will be sharing about their experiences. Joining them will be Mary Bates, the denominational director over this ministry.

Adult Sunday School meets from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. each Sunday. Each of these sessions will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

On June 25 There will be a **SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL BREAKFAST BREAK**. Sandy Thompson will introduce the congregation to our denomination's 20/20 vision and the capital campaign that will support that vision. Part of that vision is the recruiting of more than 300 new pastors to support the growing need we have in that area. Come ready to be inspired by our denomination's goals for the future. This will be held in the Community Center. PLEASE mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Welcome: To our newest Staff Member



It is my pleasure to introduce to you Isagrario Gramajo. She started working on May 10th as our new Ministry Assistant for Communications. Isa, as she prefers to be called, comes to us from CTC. She graduated 5/17/23 with a technical certificate in Digital Media Design. Isa will be helping answer phones and greeting visitors as well as helping us with our Narthex and Worship PowerPoints, website, newsletters, posters and other communications as needed. Please help us extend a warm welcome to Isa.



Stewardship article for June

I have been fascinated with the name for God, Jehovah Jireh-
“the Lord will provide”.

We read in Genesis 22, Isaac was the son of promise to Sarah and Abraham. God tells Abraham to take his son to Mount Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice. Isaac carries the wood and Abraham brings the rest. Isaac notices they ‘don’t have enough and asks his father, “where is the lamb?” Abraham answers, “My son, God himself will provide the lamb”.

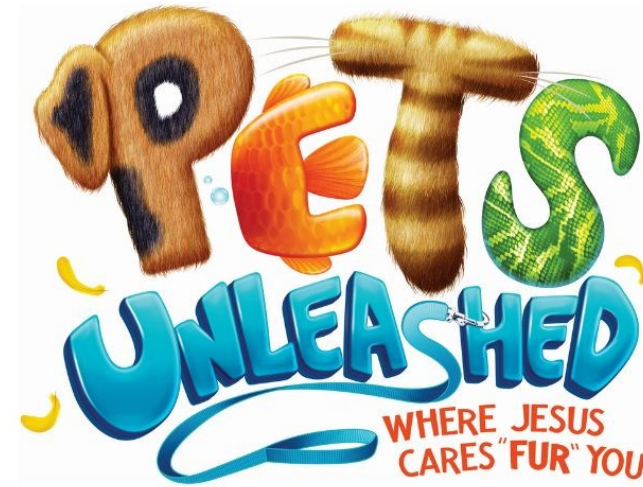
Abraham obeys, prepares to sacrifice Isaac, and God provides a ram in the thicket for Abraham to sacrifice in place of his son. Abraham names this mount ‘Jehovah Jireh - the Lord will provide’.

WAIT! Do you get it? God Himself will provide a Lamb? YES, He did-the spotless Lamb of His Son, Jesus...for my sins, your sins, the sins of the world. Yes, thanks be to God, Jesus was and is more than enough.

By Mel Leonard

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Vacation Bible School 2023!

We will celebrate Jesus’ love for us at VBS July 17th, 18th and 19th from 6:00 – 8:30 pm with the theme “Pets Unleashed!”. Children 4 years-old to 4th grade will have the opportunity to participate in “Music and More”, Bible Adventures, Projects, and Pet Playground Games. Each evening we will open with song and worship and with songs and a video that demonstrates God’s love in action in the world today. Wednesday night, we will have a family cookout where all the families of our participants are invited to Grace for food and fellowship, wrapped up by showcasing what the kids learned at VBS. We are looking forward to a fun-filled adventure! Keep an eye out for upcoming information how you can be involved and remember, JESUS CARES FOR US!



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. We need Grace’s talented cookie bakers and volunteers to help with the delivery. Typically, our volunteers deliver and visit 2 to 3 members.

You will be able to sign up to volunteer in Sign- Up central to help deliver or to bake 4 dozen cookies for our Christmas in July packs. We will need the cookies to be dropped off to the church by July 20th. We plan to deliver the cookies on July 21st through the 23rd. Watch for the sign up central late June and first of July.

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.

Soccer Shots



Soccer Shots is coming to Grace! Check out the Free Fun Day on Wednesday June 7 from 5:30-7pm. Summer season starts June 14th or 15th at 5:30pm. The cost is \$120 for an 8-week season and as a Grace Member, you get a 10% discount, use code Grace 23.

Link to Free Fun Day:
<https://dayton.soccershots.com/search?txt=free%20fun%20day>

Link to classes:
<https://dayton.soccershots.com/search?txt=grace%20lutheran>