





# Stewardship Article for September 2023

Psalm 23, a familiar and perhaps a favorite psalm of David, speaks to us that with God, we have more than enough.  
“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want”. God meets our needs. Paul, in Phil. 4:19, says the same.  
“He leadeth me beside calm waters”, speaks of a peaceful place to rest and a refreshing place to drink.  
Do you know that sheep cannot eat or drink unless the fields and waters are calm and still?

God is with us during our darkest times, too. “The valley of the shadow of death” times.  
Most importantly, “my cup runneth over” tells us of God’s many blessings: His Presence, provision, protection, and power.  
More than enough to bless others!  
The closing line offers such hope! “I WILL dwell in the House of the Lord forever”.  
Now breathe and be grateful, with the Lord as our Shepherd, we have more than enough.

Jim Leonard, Stewardship Team

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## GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH *Messenger*

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

### *A Letter From The Pastor*

BY TOM BRODBECK

Our worship theme for the month of September is “More Than Enough.” It’s a theme that was chosen in conjunction with our Financial Stewardship Team, and it may seem to be an odd choice for a month in which we are asking you to be faithful stewards. After all, it sounds like we are saying “We have more than enough this year!”

But fret not! This theme actually reminds us that when God blesses our prayer-filled efforts, the result is always “More Than Enough.” Remember that faithful little boy who gave Jesus his five small loaves and two small fish? God blessed it into “more than enough” to feed 5,000+ people.

At Grace we teach that stewardship has four parts, each beginning with the letter “T”: Time, Talents, Testimony, and Treasure. By now you have likely received your “Time and Talent” booklet in the mail. (If not, additional copies are in the narthex.) This resource will help you discern how God will bless others through you as you serve in the ministries of Grace.

On the final Sunday of the month (the 24th), you will be asked to make a final “estimate of giving” for the 2024 calendar year. That estimate, combined with the estimates of all givers at Grace, will provide the number used by our church council to build our 2024 ministry plan (budget).

And throughout the month you will hear the testimonies of our congregation as we express how God has been “more than enough” for us. You will especially want to be present in worship on Sept. 17th as Terri and Steve Lininger, along with their daughter Jules Lemaster, join me for the morning message.

Here’s a simple formula for us each to remember as we prayerfully approach September: My resources + God’s grace = More Than Enough. I look forward to seeing how that plays out in your life.

#### *IN THIS ISSUE*

September Outreach  
Corner

Lay Ministry

Adult Sunday School

Game Night

The Joy Garden

# September Outreach Corner



Our next Breakfast Break will be Sunday October 22nd. Amy Formella from Lutheran Bible Translators will be here to share with us about her international ministry to work with the people in Sierra Leone West Africa and elsewhere to be able to read the Bible in their own language. Watch for more information.



*Serving youth since 1995*  
H.O.P.E. Ministries here in Springfield works with children and youth in afterschool programs. Their mission is helping our young people and their families connect with God for the purpose of making healthier and wiser life choices. During the month of September, we will be collecting items needed for H.O.P.E. Ministries to help with supplies they use to reach their youth including food, paper products and prizes for their success store. Their success store is an opportunity for them to earn "success bucks" through reading and helping around the facility that enable to them to purchase prizes. Please see the display in the Narthex for more specifics on needed items. Please place items in collection box in the narthex by October 1st.

## Lay Ministry



Our Lay Ministry focus this year centers on finding what direction your spiritual gifts are pointing you. N: navigate, E: engage, S: serve, or W: worship. As Coordinator of Outreach ministries at Grace I find a little navigate, engage, and serve in this ministry area. Our Outreach ministries have been increasingly focused on serving our community and certainly in doing so we pray that we are able to engage the people whom we are serving as well. Outreach teaches you how to navigate and put your spiritual gifts to work. For example, our newest ministry, CarePortal. We have had several training sessions providing opportunities to learn about how to serve and engage families in need. St John's Food Pantry, the Soup Kitchen, & the Grace Garden all serve people and work to engage them in God's love. We show God's love through our service, and we pray for those whom we are serving to know God and grow closer to him, helping them connect to God. We are giving them direction towards God just as our spiritual gifts are giving us direction to serve them. Our trip to Laurel Mission is another great example. We serve the families and engage them in God's love through the work we do, the prayers we have and the love we show them. If you feel serving and engaging are gifts you have, come talk to Janet or me about our Outreach ministry opportunities. -Sandy Thompson, Outreach Ministry Area Coordinator.

**Our Children's Ministry Is Growing!** When I started working in January, we were using a one-room schoolhouse plan, because numbers were low. Within a couple of months, God lead more families with children to us and we were able to expand to two classrooms. This coming fall, we will have the following: a Preschool/Kindergarten class, a 1st/2nd class, a 3rd/4th grade class, and a 5th/6th grade class. We are bringing back Faith Journey (our Catechism courses) for each grade level. I am so excited that we can offer more activities to reinforce what they are learning in Faith Journey. I thank our Lord every day for this blessing and ask Him to send us more children. Thanks be to, God!!

## WRVM Stories & Articles

### Drinking From My Saucer - NEW

Author - John Paul Moore

I've never made a fortune  
and it's probably too late now.  
But I don't worry about that much,  
I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way,  
I'm reaping better than I sowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

I haven't got a lot of riches,  
and sometimes the going's tough.  
But I've got loved ones around me,  
and that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for his blessings,  
and the mercies He's bestowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong,  
My faith wore somewhat thin.  
But all at once the dark clouds broke,  
and the sun peeped through again.

So God, help me not to gripe about  
the tough rows that I've hoed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage,  
when the way grows steep and rough.  
I'll not ask for other blessings,  
I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy,  
to help others bear their loads.  
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

# CarePortal Called to Care Fun Run Sept 30th Hocking Hills



CarePortal Ohio

## CALLED TO CARE FUN RUN

Join us for the CarePortal Ohio Called to Care Fun Run on **Saturday, September 30, 2023**. Lace up your running shoes and get ready for a fun-filled event that supports a great cause. Feel free to walk, jog, run, skip or dance your way through this 5k event.

Location: Hocking Hills Retreat Center 30682 Chieftain Drive, Logan, OH 43138

**REGISTER HERE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE**



**Show you care!**  
**Join us to help Clark County Kids & Families!**



## Game Night

What's your game?  
Euchre, Hearts, Spades, Uno, Rummy or something else?



We are planning a game night and thought it would be fun to have teams compete against each other. Do you have a favorite card game? **Let us hear from you on your choice of game.** We will then set a date and "let the games begin!"



CONTACT JANET RICE at [Janet.Rice@grace-nalc.org](mailto:Janet.Rice@grace-nalc.org) or 937-399-6257



## Wednesday Night FUEL is back!

Wednesday Night FUEL returns on September 6th, offering fuel for both body and soul. FUEL events conclude on November 15th.

The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a meal around the Grace Family Table. This simple meal allows everyone to eat together without having to rush home from work or school before attending the rest of the evening's activities. Diners are invited to share a \$5.00 donation if they wish. And if you would like to help fix your favorite meal or even help with the preparation and cleanup, volunteers are most welcome.

Following the meal, at 7 p.m., Pastor Brodbeck will again offer a focused Bible study. This fall's study is titled "Hebrews: The Book of Better." Hebrews compares and contrasts Jesus to key historical people and events from the Hebrew Bible. Through these comparisons, we see his superiority. He is better than the angels, the Torah, Moses, the promised land, earthly priests, sacrifices, and the covenant.

At 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday our fall session of GriefShare also meets. Participants are invited to go first through the meal line before heading off to their class time. GriefShare is a grief recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. There is no cost to attend, and the group is open to the Springfield community.

The evening also includes rehearsals for our handbell (at 5:30 p.m.) and sanctuary (at 7 p.m.) choirs. Life-to-life groups are encouraged as well.

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## Adult Sunday School in September

During the month of September, the nine members of the Grace Culture Crew will facilitate the Adult Sunday School class. The Culture Crew is our team of dedicated servants who seek to cultivate a culture of discipleship in our congregation.

One of the ongoing goals of this team is to create small life-to-life groups that meet regularly for Bible study. In September they will be teaching and modeling how those groups function. They will also encourage you to become a part of a group once the September has concluded. Please come and support these nine individuals as they work together to serve you in this way.

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## On Behalf of the Youth Group

"The Grace Lutheran middle and high school youth ministry is regularly adding new students, and as a result, is in need of help of all kinds. If you have ever felt that God might use you in the lives of young people, now is a great time to answer that call. Teachers, mentors, people to run games, serve food, help in Sunday school, youth group and one-off events: whatever your talents or interests, or stage of life, we can put you to good use in the youth ministry. For more information get in touch with me either at paul.kelly@grace-nalc.org or through the church office."



# 2024 Estimate of Giving

Financial support in the form of a pledge is an expression of praise and thanksgiving to God. "Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Pledges are the promises made by individuals and families to financially underwrite the congregation's expenses. On September 24 those in worship will be given the opportunity to complete and submit an "Estimate of Giving" pledge card for 2024. Based on the total anticipated giving for the next year, the 2024 ministry plan (budget) will be prepared.

September 24, is Consecration Sunday 2023. During both worship services on that day, those in attendance will be given the opportunity to submit their pledges, their "Estimate of Giving" cards, and Time and Talent sign-up forms. Please come to give thanks and praise to our Lord for all that he has entrusted to us!

2024 ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARD

Take one step up for Christ and His Church!

In response to God's love and as a commitment to Christ and the mission of Grace Lutheran Church, I/we offer this estimate of giving for the year 2024 Operating budget:

\$ ☐ per week ☐ per month ☐ per year (please check one)

This card represents a faith estimate. It can be changed at any time by notifying Darla Kalifoot, Church Administrator

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

## The Joy Garden

The Joy Guild would like to invite you to enjoy the beautiful garden of flowers. It is located beside the herb garden and the shed. The colorful flower garden may be seen from the patio or the Community Center windows. The blooming flowers are attracting pollinators that are essential for the Grace Garden and is in remembrance of Grace and Joy Guild member, Sherry Provens, a butterfly advocate. Joy Guild members enjoyed helping to plant the garden. Watching it grow and bloom is a joy! Many thanks to the Grace Endowment Committee for funding the project, Terry Fredrich for his planning, expertise, and work with the Joy Garden along with Jerry Angst and the Grace Gardeners.

Barbara Blackburn, Joy Guild



***“This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior, all the day long.”***  
**from the hymn, Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine**  
**written by Fanny J. Crosby & Phoebe P. Knapp**

How wonderful it is to hear the hymns of the church and to be able to sing together with other believers. Joni Erickson Tada who was paralyzed from her shoulders down in a diving accident at the age of 17, is an evangelical Christian writer, artist, and founder of Joni and Friends, a Christian ministry serving the disability community throughout the world. Even now at 73 years old, she continues to “praise her Savior, all the day long.”

A few years ago, I was privileged to sing hymns with literally thousands of other voices in melodious harmony, all without any instruments. It was just voices singing together in harmony. It was beautiful and miraculous! We were being led by Joni Erickson Tada who was in her wheelchair on the stage and she was singing! Yes, she was leading us and singing! How could someone who is paralyzed from the shoulders down control her breathing, sing praises to God, and lead thousands? How is that possible? Of course, it's by God! Joni has said: “It is one thing to sing praise to God by yourself; It's quite another when Christian friends join in with harmony. God designed and created us to sing together.”

How wonderful it is to share our story through song! Fanny J. Crosby, who was blind shared her story in the hymn, Blessed Assurance and the other hymns she wrote, in fact over 8,000 hymns! Grace is blessed with talented and dedicated volunteers who faithfully share the message of Jesus Christ in the Sanctuary Choir, Grace Notes Handbell and Handchime Choirs. When the Sanctuary was being renovated, the Choir and Grace Notes continued to provide musical offerings and adapt to the new space in the Community Center. They share the songs and story of Christ at Grace throughout the year and represented our church in the community at the Champion City Kings baseball game with the choir singing the National Anthem again this past summer.

The volunteers in our vocal and instrumental choirs enjoy coming together to rehearse, pray, and fellowship with each other as they give their God-given talents back to God throughout the year. The choirs look forward to being back together this fall and sharing their musical talents with the congregation. We are blessed by their dedication and grateful for the message in music. It is wonderful to see how all members- youth and adults, men and women come together to learn the music and praise their Savior in song, “all the day (and year) long.”

- Barbara Blackburn  
Director of the Choirs

