

“ More Than Enough”

“More than enough” is a simple statement when we first read it. I think it contains two very important parts that tell us about the many ways God is able to bless us. First, there is the “enough” part. It truly is a blessing when God grants us with “enough.” We all must be thankful with enough food, clothing and shelter; with family and friends and with people that care and are concerned about us. This is truly a blessing to be thankful for having enough.

Secondly, there is the “more” part. All of us will hope that God will grant us this blessing. Be aware that with this blessing we will be held to a higher standard of stewardship. We must listen to the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit to meet this standard. Luke 12:48 tells us “to whom much is given, much will be required.” If we have been blessed with talents, wealth, knowledge, time and the like, it is expected from us that we use this blessing to benefit others and bring glory to God’s work here on earth.

Yes, God’s blessings can come to us in many great and simple ways. May we be truly grateful.

Neal Blackburn, Stewardship Team



Contemporary Worship
in October will be on
October 8th at the 10:45 service
(not on October 1st)

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



www.grace-nalc.org 937.399.6257

1801 St. Paris Pike
Springfield, OH 45504

Evangelical Lutheran Church



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

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH *Messenger*

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

A Letter From The Pastor

BY TOM BRODBECK

Is it too early to start counting down the days until Christmas? Oh my! Surely it’s not that time already!

I have been working on a new sermon series that will run from October 1 through November 26. It is titled “Tell Me a Story.” It will focus on nine stories told by Jesus during the final week of His life on earth. Each of them points to a celebration Sunday known as “Christ the King” (November 26)

These stories present a counter-cultural picture of the coming Kingdom of God. You will hear about two sons, some wicked renters, a couple of wedding banquets and much more. If you want to read ahead, start in Matthew 21. When the stories end, Jesus will be crucified, buried and will rise again to reign as King of kings and to proclaim the arrival of His Kingdom. Don’t you love a story where the good guy wins?

What does that have to do with a Christmas countdown? Well, Christ the King is the final Sunday in our liturgical year, meaning that Advent begins one week later. Oh my! (I’ll tell you more about the Advent theme next month.)

IN THIS ISSUE

October Outreach
Corner

New Members’ Class

Adult Sunday School

Nomination Open for
Grace Council 2024

Charity Auction

October Outreach Corner



Our next Breakfast Break will be Sunday October 22nd during the Sunday School hour. 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. We hope you can join us, it will be an interesting presentation and opportunity to hear from an international missionary.



One Plus God Ministries is an interdenominational, global organization that shares the Gospel in word and action, supports missionaries and provides people with opportunities for growth through serving. Interested in a Mission Trip to Tanzania? Join Pastor Bert Schultz and Grace Lutheran Church from Jackson Center OH from May 30-June 11, 2024 with One Plus God ministries.



Follow this link: <https://oneplusgod.regfox.com/tanzania-2024> or contact Sandy Thompson for more information.



Laurel Mission Trip

Grace is sending a team to Laurel Mission again this year and could use your help to cover construction supply costs and for canned meat and vegetable donations for their food pantry. We will be there the week of October 29-November 4, 2023. Please see the display in the Narthex for more information and/or reach out to Sandy Thompson. There are donation cards for cash or Lowe's cards donations due by October 22nd and a bin to place any canned good items by October 29th. **No Home Depot please, they don't have one near them.**

New Members' Class

Grace will host its next class for those interested in becoming a member of the church on Sunday, November 5th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. An optional building tour will follow the session. Attendees are not obligated to join but will find this class to be a thorough overview of the church and its approach to ministry. It's also a great way to get your questions answered and to become better acquainted with church leaders. Register on the Grace app or by email to grace.lutheran@grace-nalc.org.

Adult Sunday School

Beginning October 1, our Adult Sunday School class will revisit a foundational course titled "Reforming Church." First offered in 2017 (to coincide with the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation), this 10 week course helps shape a unified understanding of the purpose and mission of Grace Church. The course will be facilitated by Pastor Brodbeck.

We continue to encourage the formation of small Life-to-Life group Bible studies during this time as well. Our building offers many comfortable spaces for you to meet.



Sunday, Oct 1

Operation Christmas Child
2:00 pm Springfield Manor Worship
7:00 pm Youth Group

Monday, Oct 2

10:30 am Essence of Grace

Tuesday, Oct 3

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am Staff Meeting
6:00 pm Culture Crew

Wednesday, Oct 4

10:30 am Embroiderers
6:00 pm Wed.Night Fuel
6:30 pm Grief Share

Thursday, Oct 5

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

Friday, Oct 6

Saturday, Oct 7

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
1:00 pm Kouze 50th Wedd Ann.

Sunday, Oct 8

10:45 am Contemp. Worship
2:00 pm Covette Club
7:00 pm Youth Group

Monday, Oct 9

11:30 Wildcat Group
7:00 pm Agape Guild

Tuesday, Oct 10

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am Staff Meeting
2:00 pm Joy Guild
6:00 pm Exec Comm

Wednesday, Oct 11

10:00 am Hope Guild
1:30 pm Charity Guild
5:30 pm Handbell Practice
6:00 pm Wed.Night Fuel
6:30 pm Grief Share

Thursday, Oct 12

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Adult Bible Study
1:00 pm Service Quilt
7:00 pm Miss Inc

Friday, Oct 13

Saturday, Oct 14

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
Apple Picking/Youngs Pre-K-6th

Sunday, Oct 15

12:15 pm Acolyte Training
1:00 pm Young Life Set Up
7:00 pm Youth Group

Monday, Oct 16

10:30 am Essence of Grace
10:30 am Young Life Banq.
6:00 pm Prayer Support Group

Tuesday, Oct 17

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Council

Wednesday, Oct 18

6:00 pm Wed.Night Dinner
6:30 pm Grief Share
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Oct 19

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

Friday, Oct 20

Saturday, Oct 21

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
2:00 pm Witt.Football 5-12
6:00 pm SWOMD Leader Ship Day

Sunday, Oct 22

9:15 am Breakfast Break
12:15 pm Feri Steward Acolyte Installation
7:00 pm Youth Group

Monday, Oct 23

11:30 am Wildcat Group

Tuesday, Oct 24

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am Staff Meeting
6:00 pm Safe Harbor

Wednesday, Oct 25

5:30 pm Grace Notes
6:00 pm Wed.Night Fuel
6:30 pm Grief Share
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Oct 26

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

Friday, Oct 27

Saturday, Oct 28

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, Oct 29

Reformation Sunday
7:00 pm Youth Group

Monday, Oct 30

Pixie Halloween Parade

Tuesday, Oct 31

Pixie Halloween Parade
8:00 am Men's Bible Study
8:00 am M.I. Book Club
11:30 am Staff Meeting

Clark-Shawnee School District Welcomes LifeWise Academy



The Clark-Shawnee School is opening LifeWise Academy for elementary school students this month. It is the first district in Clark County to begin offering this program. Founded in 2018, LifeWise Academy is a division of Stand for Truth, a ministry with the vision to reach unchurched students in public schools with the Gospel. The creation of LifeWise was inspired by a released time program in Van Wert, Ohio, which boasts a 95% participation rate among public elementary school students. At this time, LifeWise has grown to include many school districts in Ohio and other states. At Clark-Shawnee, a LifeWise bus will pick up students at the elementary school and transport them to Riversong Church on State Route 72 for classes, then they will be returned to school by bus. This program has a number of needs as it

gets started including Bus Drivers (CDL required), Bus Riders to accompany students, Supplies, Behind-the-scene volunteers, Fund Raising help, Teachers/Substitute Teachers, and Prayers.

Consider how God might use YOU to help public school students receive Bible education during school hours.

For more Information email BradleyWebb@lifewise.org . Webb is the director at LifeWise Clark-Shawnee.

Checks may be sent to: LifeWise Academy with "Clark-Shawnee" in the memo line. Mail checks to: LifeWise Academy-286 Victory Road-Springfield, OH 45504.

Thank you. Greg Bachman



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



TO ENSURE A LEGACY OF FAITH TODAY, TOMORROW & FOREVER

You may recall that we introduced the NALC 2020 Vision and Capital Campaign back in June during Sunday School and you should have received a letter to your home in August. In October and November, we will continue to roll out additional information to you. During worship on October 22nd and 29th as well as November 12th and 19th you will see four more videos providing additional details on the

NALC strategic plan for the future. You will also be provided with one-page handouts to add into your brochure that was handed out in March and all we be available on the Connection Center table as well. These additional videos and handouts will provide more details about each of the four main components of their strategic plan for our denomination: Grow, Serve, Renew, and Fulfill. We will be adding a link on our website where you can find this same and some additional information as well. In November you will also be receiving a pledge card to turn in if you choose to help support this campaign financially. We hope you will pray about this support and discern God's leading. The Grace Council and Staff support this Vision and our denomination and pray that you will begin to see the value that it holds not only for our congregation, but for all congregations in the NALC.

Nominations Open for Grace Council 2024

The Grace 2023 Nominating Committee would like to invite members, who have been active for a period of at least one year, to nominate potential candidates to serve on next year's Grace Council. Please be sure to obtain prior approval from the person being nominated , and then forward your nomination in writing to one of the Nominating Committee members by the end of October. This year's Nominating Committee includes: Kim Bachman, Roger Bentz, Ron Henze, Jim Leonard, Deb O'Neal, and Peggy Van Fleet. Please feel free to contact one of us with any questions you may have. The nomination is for a three year term, 2024-2026.

A Sabbatical in 2024

The Grace Congregational Council has approved a sabbatical for Pastor Brodbeck during the summer of 2024. Church policy allows pastors up to two months of sabbatical time after seven years of service in a pastoral role. Pastor Brodbeck was first eligible for his sabbatical period in 2022, but since we were still getting re-established following COVID and with no associate pastor on board he decided to defer that time away until things were more stable. "It just wasn't the right time," Pastor Brodbeck noted.

Right now plans are being made for a six or seven week sabbatical in June and the first part of July. "There are no coming weddings that I know about," Pastor joked. "That was the first thing I checked."

During his sabbatical, the day-to-day operations will be handled efficiently by the Grace staff. We will be securing speakers from inside and outside the congregation to bring messages each week and use a network of individuals to provide other pastoral care. Leadership is working on those plans, with the intent of having everything in place by the first of the year. We will keep you informed as plans are more fully solidified.

"This will be my first sabbatical in 45 years of ministry. It will be my last one too!" Pastor observed. "When I'm eligible for the next one, it will be called 'retirement.'"

REMINDER: CHARITY AUCTION DECEMBER 2 AT 9:00 AM - NOON

Our charity auction will be back this year and we are once again looking for items from all 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 2, 2023 9:00 am - noon** and join us in the community center for a morning of fun!

This year's charity is Seeds of Grace.

Link: seedsofgraceministries.org

