

# April MESSENGER



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

2024



## Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

Following Sam Poston's funeral service in early March, one of the attendees of that service approached me with a fascinating observation. He said, "Jesus makes all the difference, doesn't he?" Of course, I quickly agreed, but I was curious about exactly what prompted that observation.

He continued by telling me that a few days prior to Sam's service he had attended the "celebration of life" of a friend. The friend had no church or faith orientation, so the "celebration" was held at a local bar. (The friend was a recovering alcoholic, so I thought the choice of venue was a bit odd.)

He told me how those gathered at the bar told a few stories and shared a few beers.

There was a lot of laughter, the volume of which grew as the beer consumption increased. When the party was over, he felt empty and sad and alone. But Sam's service was different somehow, a fact which he attributed to Jesus. Jesus makes all the difference, doesn't he?

Depending on when you read these words, we will either be just a few days past our Easter celebration or a few days before it. From whatever vantage point you have when you read these words, would you please take a moment to reflect on my new friend's simple-yet-powerful conclusion? Jesus makes all the difference.

Doesn't He?

# April Outreach Corner



ONE PLUS GOD

**Outreach Breakfast Break:** Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>, Wynand “Wayne” de Wet from One Plus God Ministries will be coming to speak to us for a Breakfast Break during the Sunday school hour. 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. They are currently working with Grace Lutheran Church in Jackson Center for a mission trip this May 30-June 11, 2024. Come and hear more about their work, mission trip opportunities, and how we can support what they are doing.

## It's Garden Time again!

There are two wonderful opportunities for Grace members to get involved with gardening.

1. Our own Grace Garden: If you haven't had an opportunity to see how wonderful the Grace Garden is, please take time to go and check it out!! Terry Fredrich and Jerry Angst are already busy planning for this year's crops. If you are interested in planting, weeding and garden care, harvesting and washing the produce or helping to serve at the Harvest Table on Sunday mornings, please reach out to Terry at 937-215-9400 or Jerry Angst 937-207-8544.

2. Jefferson Street Oasis Garden (JSO): I highly recommend a visit here to see firsthand the wonderful work Terry Fredrich is doing near downtown Springfield. At JSO Terry and others are teaching Springfield residents, especially those who struggle with having enough food but especially fresh produce, to grow and preserve their own food. At JSO the residents do all the work in their own individual garden plots, but you can come alongside to help teach them, provide mentorship, and build relationships while spreading the Gospel and the love of Christ. Call Terry for more Information.



---

## From the Desk of the Executive Director

---

The first quarter of this year has really flown by. I am certainly much busier this year as we continue to grow my role here at Grace. If you haven't heard, my candidacy process went well, and I was formally accepted into the candidacy process to become an ordained Deacon in the NALC. I will work with our Bishop, Dan Selbo, to discern this role as I begin to move through the rest of the process. I plan to start classes this fall, and it will take 3-4 years for me to complete the education. Thank you so much for your prayers so far and continued prayers throughout this process are much appreciated.



I continue to work on bringing a new English as a Second Language program to Springfield. It has been a slow process, but we continue to gain interest from key people and make forward progress. Your prayers over this opportunity are also much appreciated, especially pray for us to raise up a program manager, to begin to secure funding, and for God to lead us to a decision on where and when to pilot the program.

### An update on our NALC 20/20 Vision campaign:

Total Dollars collected through the end of February = \$21,472

Dollars pledged through of end of February = \$19,000

Dollars collected towards these pledges through the end of February = \$9,885

Grand Total Collected including the \$20,000 Council donated in 2023 = \$41,472

Thanks everyone for your continued support of this campaign. This is great progress towards our goal of \$60,000 by the end of 2025. If you want to donate, send a check to Grace with NALC 20/20 Vision in the memo line, or donate from the Grace App or Website and choose the NALC 2020 Vision Campaign option. Pledge cards are also available in the Narthex.

---

## Children's Ministry

---



Our Puppet Ministry returned on Sunday, March 10th. Nora Charney was the lead with Kim Bachman, Elijah Reed and Zane Kelly's help. The puppets shared who God loves everyone. The children were enthralled watching the puppets do their magic! We look forward to the next presentation.

The children in the preschool, 1st and 2nd grades have been learning about stories in the Old Testament. Ada and Christian make a rainbow after learning about Noah. In the picture on the right, Austyn, Enzo and Melody make a snack representing the burning bush in which God talked to Moses.



---

## Young At Heart

---

Recently we enjoyed the energy of the Springfield Arts Council Youth Arts Ambassadors Musical at Methodist High Street Church. April 14<sup>th</sup> we will see Live Wire of the Springfield Youth Symphony.

Still have 4 tickets to Westside story at La Comedia Dinner Theater on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

April 8<sup>th</sup> we gather to see the total Sun Eclipse at Veterans Park from 1pm-4pm.

Step out of your comfort zone. Enjoy new things and people. There's people out there who care about you. – Hope to see you soon!

Roger/Sonya



---

# Join us at Springfield Manor!

---

On the first Sunday of each month, at 2:00 p.m., we bring a touch of Grace to the welcoming residents of Springfield Manor. In fact, they consider Grace their church!

In March we shared God's Word, prayers, and praise songs with fifteen men and women. One gentleman shared that he started attending church at the age of three. He hadn't been to an actual church service in years. He was reminded that times may change, but Jesus never does. His Love remains the same for him and for everyone.



Here are some of their heartfelt prayers. We ask you to add them to your daily prayers.

- Pray for everybody and victims of conflict or persecution
- Pray for First Responders
- Pray for C's health to continue improving and thanks for allowing her to have a successful surgery
- A special thanks to God for providing Andy and Steve last year to help a staff member deal with several deaths in her family

As you can see, the residents and staff members are just like us. They share the same desire to know Jesus and to serve Him. You can help provide that connection each month. Please pray about joining us! Everyone would be happy to see you. Our next Springfield Manor church service will be on April 7<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Andy and Steven Schumacher or Deb O'Neal.

---

## **Letter from Larry and Sally Cisler**

---

The Cislers would like to thank everyone who offered prayers, cards and visits during Larry's heart surgery. They feel very blessed to be a part of such a caring congregation.

---

## **Letter from Leslie McKinney**

---

A special thanks to everyone who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt! The youth helped put together the eggs and then "hid" them Saturday morning and many people helped with registration, snacks, facepainting and tattoos! A special thank you to Cooper Quesenberry (a.k.a. the Easter Bunny). The morning was a huge success!

---

## **Letter from Beverley Przytulski**

---

What a blessing it is to have so many wonderful people in our church family! Thank you to all who donated a dessert and/or their time to help with Sam Poston's funeral meal. Your desserts and help were truly appreciated. Also, thank you Karen Brodbeck for all of the delicious and beautiful breads that you made. It's impossible to name everyone but THANK YOU. If you're not already on the bereavement team and would like to be please contact me.

Blessings to all,  
Bereavement coordinator

---

## OMR to Focus on Senior Adult Ministry

---

The Ohio Mission Region (OMR) of the North American Lutheran Church will hold its annual convocation on May 3-4 at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Grove City, OH. The Saturday portion of the convocation is dedicated to business meetings of both the OMR and our own Southwest Ohio Mission District (SOMD). The Grace Council appoints delegates to represent our congregation at those meetings.

But the sessions on Friday, May 3 are geared toward ministry development and are open to all interested individuals. This year's focus will be on ministering to senior adults. The guest resource person will be Pastor Brad Hales, Director of Church Planting and Aging Ministries for the NALC. In that role he helps start new congregations and house churches, assists churches in starting senior and middle age ministries, and using these age groups as a catalyst for outreach and renewal.

If you would like to attend that training, please contact Pastor Brodbeck.

---

## Endowment Announces 2024 Grant

---

The Grace Endowment Team is pleased to announce it will award up to \$19,841 in grants to qualifying ministries this spring. These funds are generated by the Grace Endowment Fund and represent a percentage of the earnings from calendar year 2023.

Award requests will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- It honors and glorifies God.

- It cannot be included in the current year's ministry plan (budget)

- It will strive to diversify the distribution across ministry areas

- It will reflect God's love beyond the Grace congregation

- It will encourage the growth and health of the Grace Endowment Fund.

If you have a ministry idea that meets these criteria, you are invited to apply for a grant. Application forms are available in the Grace office. These must be submitted by April 30.

The Grace Endowment Fund was established in 1999 as a way of extending the ministry of the church. The principal is never touched, so the fund continues to grow as more and more people contribute to it. As you are planning your estate or considering how to invest your resources in a way that impacts the Kingdom of God for future generations, please consider a gift to the Endowment Fund. Contact the Grace office for more information.



Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1801 St. Paris Pike  
Springfield, OH 45504  
[www.grace-nalc.org](http://www.grace-nalc.org) 937.399.6257



CURRENT RESIDENT OR

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