

May MESSENGER



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

2024



Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

May is a month of recognition and celebration. No doubt you will be invited to attend at least one graduation party and likely more. (At Grace we have 10 young people graduating from high school plus a few college graduations as well). You may even be invited to a wedding. You most definitely will be reminded to give thanks for your Mom and for all Moms in this world. Your country will ask you to remember those who have given their lives to defend us before the month concludes. Throw in a couple of birthdays and anniversaries, and you are certain to have all the cake and ice cream you want.

In addition to all of this, here at Grace, we will baptize two babies, host one wedding, and honor those who choose to affirm their baptisms. Our church calendar will bring us to Holy Trinity Sunday, Pentecost (wear red!) and Ascension Sunday. My, all of this adds up to a whole lot to celebrate!

As I was plugging all of this into my calendar, I was reminded of a wonderful phrase recorded in the book of Nehemiah: "... for the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10b). That joy is more than happiness, of course. It is a state of being that results when you know God has redeemed you and claims you as His own. It is a state of being only possible when you are confident that all is well with your soul.

I pray that your month of celebrations will be wrapped in the joy of the Lord!

May Outreach Corner



BLESSING IN A BOTTLE CAMPAIGN: Every year, the Pregnancy Resource Clinic organizes their Blessings in a Bottle campaign which provides a way for local churches, schools, and other organizations to support the ministry of the PRC. The Pregnancy Resource Clinic of Clark County is a Christ-centered organization that provides trusted care, support, and resources to all people regarding pregnancy and sexual health. They

will be using a QR code again this year for their fund-raising campaign that you can scan to make an online donation or you can pick up a bottle to fill with coins and return by 6/16/2024. Watch for more information or see Sandy Thompson.

St John's Food Pantry

May is another 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. St John's could also use cereal, soup, Ramen noodles, crackers, bread and pastries, toiletries and soap. Place donations in the shopping cart in the Community Center.



Grace Outreach Impact

GRACE OUTREACH IMPACT



Breakfast Break 1st Quarter 2024:
\$1,626 donated to
Laurel Mission



February: donated
\$148 to SMI Haiti
for rice & beans



March: donated \$200 to
Malawi Orphan Care for
"Shoes that Grow",
equaling 10 pairs of shoes

Grace NALC 20/20 Vision Campaign Update



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



Grace took in \$722 dollars towards our campaign to support the NALC 20/20 Vision. \$275 of these dollars were pledged dollars and \$477 were unpledged dollars. This brings our total collected through the end of March to \$42,194. Continued thanks for your generosity.

Young Adults Invited to “Chill” with the Pastor

Following the 10:45 worship service on Sunday, May 19, all young adults of the church are invited to “chill” with Pastor Tom in the youth café located on the west end of our building. There is no cost to attend, but there will be plenty of ice cream to consume.

One of our congregational goals this year is to launch a ministry to the growing number of young adult families in our church. At this “chillin’” event, Pastor Tom will seek input as to what that ministry might look like. He will also try to gauge the level of interest in starting a ministry like this.

If you would like to attend, please contact the Grace office at 937.399.6257 or email us at grace.lutheran@grace-nalc.org.

Young At Heart

Young at Heart had a busy April. We enjoy WestSide Musical, the solar eclipse at the Park and “Live Wire” by the Springfield Youth Orchestra.

May brings along the opportunity to see the “The Church Basement Ladies” at La Comedia Dinner Theatre. Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the Dayton Playhouse, High Street Methodist Sanctuary Series and the perfect view of the Springfield Memorial Day parade. If you are interested in joining us for any of our May activities, please sign up in the Narthex.



Letter from Diane Hertz

Thank you to the Grace congregation who prayed for me and sent cards during my recovery from knee replacement surgery. I am blessed to be part of our Grace family.

In Christ's love,
Diane Hertz

Letter from Kathy Poston

I offer my sincere gratitude for the support and lovingkindness of our wonderful Grace family during Sam's illness and passing on February 24. The prayers, cards, texts, and visits meant so much to Sam and comforted our family after the funeral. A special thanks to the Bereavement Team who provided the delicious and gracious meal following the funeral. The body of Christ continues to be a blessing in my new life without Sam. This is true....Jesus makes all the difference!

In Christ's love,
Kathy Poston

Thank You Grace Card Ministry

Dear Grace Card Ministry,

Once more you have remembered my birthday with many cards. Thank you. Your ministry is an important one. Your dedication to it is heartwarming and appreciated.

In this year's cards, some of you mentioned my son, Sam. Your church community was a significant part of his life. In every telephone conversation, I heard of a Grace activity.

Blessings to each of you,

Mary Poston (Sam's mother)

Letter from the 2024 Nominating Committee

The Grace 2024 Nomination 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 September. This year's Nominating Committee consist of: Amy Fraker, Jack Sommers, Ron Henze, Darla Kalifoot, Deb O'Neal, and Jerry Newport. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Children's Ministry



Children's Summer Sunday School

I know that Spring has barely sprung, but it is time to think about teachers for Summer Sunday School. Classes will begin Sunday, June 2nd—Sunday, September 1st. We are focusing on the people in the Bible with a Summer Olympics theme. All of the lessons are prepared for you and the supplies will be ready. I am open to working with you, so that you would not have to teach the whole time, maybe just a month? I hope you will prayerfully consider helping with our Children's Ministry.

Easter Egg Hunt Correction:



Our Easter Bunny was
Morgan Huffstetler at our Easter Egg Hunt this year.

Thank you, Morgan!

2024 First Communion

Isaac Reimers, Chloe Walsh and Francie Kelly participated in 1st Communion Instruction during the month of March. Isaac received



his 1st communion during the Mandy Thursday Service on March 28th. Chloe and Francie will do so later.

Letter from Leslie McKinney

I would like to send a special "Thank You!" to everyone who is involved with the Children's Ministry! Each and every person have supported me through my first year and shared their love of God with the children. It is because of them that the children look forward to Sunday School and attending the nursery. I'm looking forward to the future.
Leslie McKinney



Evangelical Lutheran Church
1801 St. Paris Pike
Springfield, OH 45504
www.grace-nalc.org 937.399.6257



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