

# July MESSENGER



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

2024



## Thoughts from the Executive Director

Sandy Thompson

On July 1st, we celebrate Pastor Tom's significant achievement of completing five years as Senior Pastor at Grace. These years have brought considerable challenges, from navigating the COVID-19 pandemic to managing staffing changes. Yet, despite these hurdles, our church has been richly blessed. We've continued to welcome new members and steadfastly support our current congregation through various ministries and personal connections.

As Pastor Tom prepared for his extended time away, he left us with meticulously organized and detailed plans to ensure smooth operations during his absence. Over the past few months, he worked tirelessly to set us up for success, and now we, the staff and council, pray that he can fully relax, rejuvenate, and find the spiritual renewal he deserves.

We are fortunate to have a robust and dedicated team in place. From our staff and council to congregation members and guest pastors, everyone is playing a crucial role during this period. I extend heartfelt thanks to each one of you for your invaluable contributions. I am confident that Pastor Tom will be proud of the work we continue to do in his absence.

Grace Church remains a beacon of hospitality and community spirit, exemplifying what it means to care for both our members and the wider community. Let us continue this legacy with the same dedication and enthusiasm.

## July Outreach Corner



### NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

**Join us Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>:** Our Breakfast Break will feature Pastor Jeff Morlock from the NALS. He will be our guest Pastor for the day and will lead Sunday school in helping us to learn more about what the NALS is doing to help fill the shortage of new Pastors available to take a call at our NALC

churches. Come and hear more about how each of us can help to foster the call in our youth, young, or even older adults who may be struggling to discern this path for their future.



**Laurel Mission Trip 2024** will be October 27<sup>th</sup> through November 2<sup>nd</sup>. During the month of July we will be having a fundraiser to help support the work of the team who will be going this year. It is a **Buy-A-Square Fundraiser**. There will be a box with numbers from 1 to 50. Place your name in a box or boxes and donate the amount indicated in the box(es) you take. We also would love to have you join us!

It is a great trip and a

very worthy ministry. If you are interested in going or just have questions, reach out to Sandy Thompson at [sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org](mailto:sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org) or call the church office at 937-399-6257.

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## Grace NALC 20/20 Vision Campaign Update



### NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH



Our Grace members continue to be faithful to supporting our denomination's fundraising campaign. We continue to receive both pledged and unpledged dollars. Through the end of May we have taken in \$24,734 from the congregation.

Combined with the \$20,000 the Council put in initially, this brings our total collected through the end of March to \$44,734, towards our goal of \$60,000 by the end of 2025. We are praising God for this progress putting us at almost 75% just 5 months into our campaign. If we collect all that has been pledged, we will need another \$7,000 to hit our goal. We are in prayer that we might even exceed our goal. Continued thanks for your generosity.

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## Stephen Ministries

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church office, 937-399-6257, [grace.lutheran@nals.org](mailto:grace.lutheran@nals.org)

"Stephen Ministers: The After People"—Stephen Ministers come into a person's life immediately after a crisis has hit and then provide care for as long after as needed. Could you benefit from the listening ear of a trusted friend and Stephen Minister? Please email Pastor Tom Brodbeck to learn more: [tom.brodbeck@grace-nalc.org](mailto:tom.brodbeck@grace-nalc.org) or contact the

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## Adult Sunday School in July

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- July 7<sup>th</sup> will be the final session of The Pursuit of Peter with Kristin Cline facilitating.
- July 14<sup>th</sup> will be a Breakfast Break hosting Pastor Jeff Morlock from the North American Lutheran Seminary.
- July 21<sup>st</sup> the youth will share with us about their mission trip to Fredrick Maryland.
- July 28<sup>th</sup> will begin a new series which will run through August 11<sup>th</sup> featuring A Gospel View of Ezra facilitated by Pastor Tom Brodbeck.

Be sure to look for the "Discipleship Opportunities" pamphlet in the narthex. It provides a thumbnail review of all the Adult Educational experiences through the end of 2024. As always, if you have ideas for topics you would like to study (or facilitate), please share them with Pastor Brodbeck.

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## Young At Heart

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We have moved from inside to outside fresh air activities. Join us at a Champion city Kings Baseball game for fireworks on July 26<sup>th</sup>, come and root for the home team. There are a lot of opportunities to enjoy music at the Summer Arts Festival in Veterans Park. We will "meet you in the garden" at the Snyder Park Garden and Arboretum. Check the sign-up table in the narthex for dates and musical acts. Join us and have some fun.

Roger Bentz and Sonya Ryhal

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## Grace Services at Springfield Manor

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On June 2nd we enjoyed a wonderful turn-out of our Grace Springfield Manor residents. Before our service began, Steven shared with one of the men about our 5X5X5 Navigators Discipleship Tool for reading the New Testament. The gentleman was interested in starting a men's Bible study and could possibly use this tool to guide the group along. (If you haven't implemented it in your life, you might also find it a great guide for reading the New Testament.)

Please keep Springfield Manor in your hearts and prayers. If you feel God is calling you to share His love with others, join us the first Sunday of each month. Our Springfield Manor brothers and sisters will welcome you with warm hearts and big smiles.

Our next service will be Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00.

Sending you caring thoughts!

Andy and Steven Schumacher and Deb O'Neal

"Remind me, Lord, that real hope is when I can't see the end of the road, but still trust you to lead me there." Karla Dornacher

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## Christmas in July!

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July is here! It's time to start thinking about our annual Christmas in July Ministry. Bakers get your favorite cookie recipes ready! 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 packages. We will need the cookies to be dropped off to the church by 5 pm July 25th. We plan to deliver the cookies from July 26th through the 28th. Watch for the sign-up central the 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](mailto:marybstelz@sbcglobal.net).



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# Come to the Fair!

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**August 18 at 9:15 a.m. in the Community Center**

Even if you do not regularly attend Sunday School, **come to the Fair!**

The Ministry Area Coordinators and/or Ministry Team Coordinators and Guild Leaders would like to share information with you about the Ministries at Grace.

We will have a table set up to represent each of the Ministry areas and Guilds. As you travel to each of these tables you will have the opportunity to learn more about the various ministry opportunities, then to ask questions so that you can decide how to use your Gifts. Bring your Time & Talent booklet to make notes!

You will begin by receiving a “Passport” to be marked at each station. This completed Passport can then be dropped into a basket for drawings to win a gift card at the end of the Fair.

As you travel the room listening to the leaders of the ministries ask yourself this very important question:

What am I to do?

Answer: As a child of God, I am to let my light **shine** – by using my Spiritual Gifts in ministry to God.



**See you at the Fair!**

# Children's Ministry



## 2024 Vacation Bible School

August 5th—8th

6:00PM—8:30Pm

I have had to change in the VBS theme. We are now going underwater to explore God's word! There will be registration forms in the narthex starting in July and you will be able to register online at: [myvbs.org/GraceLutheranChurch/reg/](https://myvbs.org/GraceLutheranChurch/reg/)

I have extended VBS by one day and a half an hour to allow us more time for fun. Our family cookout will be Thursday, August 8th at 6:00PM

## From Roger Bentz

If you have extra Hostas or Sedum perennial plants that you are thinning out, please let Roger Bentz know, he would be happy to take them off your hands.

## Letter from Rebecca Stuchell

I would like to thank all of those who sent me cards, well wishes, and offered prayers while I was sick. Your kindness was much appreciated. Thank you.

Rebecca Stuchell

*Congratulations,*

COOPER QUESENBERRY  
AND RACHAEL CLINE

on your achievement of  
Commissioning to Public  
Discipleship, June 2, 2024.





# JULY EVENTS

**Monday, July 1**

6:15 PM Soccer Shots

**Tuesday, July 2**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

11:30 am Staff Meeting

7:00 pm Cub Scout

**Wednesday, July 3****Thursday, July 4**

Office Closed

**Friday, July 5**

Office Closed

**Saturday, July 6**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, July 7****Monday, July 8**

6:15 PM Soccer Shots

**Tuesday, July 9**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

11:30 am Staff Meeting

2:00 pm Joy Guild

6:00 pm Exec. Comm

**Wednesday, July 10**

1:30 pm Charity Guild

**Thursday, July 11**

8:00 am Mission Inc

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

1:00 pm Quilters

**Friday, July 12****Saturday July 13**

8:00 am Men's Bible study

**Sunday, July 14**

9:15 am Breakfast Break

**Monday, July 15**

6:15 PM Soccer Shots

**Tuesday, July 16**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

11:30 am Staff Meeting

7:00 pm Council

**Wednesday, July 17****Thursday, July 18**

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

1:00 pm Quilters

**Friday, July 19****Saturday, July 20**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, July 21**

12:15 pm Finan. Stew

**Monday, July 22**

6:00 pm Prayer Team

6:15 PM Soccer Shots

**Tuesday, July 23**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

11:30 am Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, July 24****Thursday, July 25**

11:00 am Bible Study

12:30-2:00 pm

Chris Ryhal Funeral

**Friday, July 26****Saturday July 27**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

1:00 pm Private Party

**Sunday, July 28****Monday, July 29**

6:15 PM Soccer Shots

**Tuesday, July 30**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

11:30 am Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, July 31**

# Stewardship Article for July 2024

Walking with Jesus...by Beth Szekacs

Psalm 23:4

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me:  
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

This is one of those verses I memorized as a young girl. The words are familiar, the metaphor was simple, David leaned on the comfort of our good shepherd and reminds us that He is with us during hardships. Now, as my husband Bryan and I face uncertainty with his grim diagnosis of stage IV cancer, this verse gives me more peace than ever before. Being a Christian doesn't exempt us from trials and tribulations, however, whatever we are going through, we know for certain that the Lord is our shepherd. He will guide us to our destination and we shouldn't fear death. Whatever you are facing right now, remember our Shepherd is caring and will guide us to safety. He is our protection and comfort in times of trouble. You are surrounded by love in this flock. Thanks be to God!

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



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Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace



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