

September MESSENGER



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

2024



Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

Twenty-five years ago this congregation took a walk. Some of you were a part of that walk on that September day. I wasn't. I was in Springfield at the time and remember hearing about it. It is a powerful image, and an even better testimony.

Think about it ... A church with a 75-year history in one location senses the call of God to move a mile down the road. Think of all the memories and traditions in that one location that were left behind that day. All because God called them to take a walk with Him. I love it!

Do realize that you and I are continuing in that walk today? The journey is not over. In fact the journey didn't begin in that Sunday in September in 1999. It began on a Sunday in October in 1915 when a group of people under the leadership of Pastor Elmer Flack, a seminary student at Hamma School of Theology, felt the call of God to form a new Lutheran congregation on the northside of Springfield. Over the last 109 years, the steps of faith taken by the people and leadership of this congregation have been a testimony to their faithfulness and willingness to follow God wherever He leads.

This month we celebrate that heritage as we commemorate 25 years on St. Paris Pike. And we recommit ourselves to "walk on in Grace." What a great month this will be!

September Outreach Corner



Festa: 3 Generation ESOL Program

The Warder Literacy Center and Nehemiah Foundation in conjunction with the work of our own Sandy Thompson are bringing a Family, 3 Generation Model ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Program to Springfield to help meet the growing needs of our new neighbors.

The pilot for this program is set to begin September 19th and run for 12 weeks through December 12th. It will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the High Street Church of the Nazarene from 6 to 8 pm.

WE NEED LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP MAKE THIS PROGRAM A SUCCESS

From teachers to nursery workers, childcare, registration and hospitality, we hope to rally as many local churches to participate as possible. You can volunteer for as many nights as you are able from twice a week to once a month or anywhere in between.

Signing up will get your name on the list to participate and then you will be contacted for selecting frequency and dates you are able to serve.

Our community has a great need, and we pray our churches can help not only meet the needs of our new neighbors, but also help build relationships, overcome false information and help unite our community once again.

Please see Sandy Thompson for more information and thank you for any help you are willing and able to provide.

For Volunteers of any age!!



CHOOSING HOPE
ADOPTIONS

SAVE THE DATE:

Our next Breakfast Break will be Sunday October 6th at 9:15 am.

Choosing Hope Adoptions will be here to update us on their ministry

and work here in Springfield and how we can help this ministry. Please come join us to hear more about the wonderful work they are doing!

Cont. September Outreach Corner

September Outreach Focus: During the month of September, we will be collecting food and hygiene items to support the new Haitian Community Help and Support Center. This new support center is led by Haitian Community members to help support those who are newly coming to Springfield with basic needs and guidance on how to find their way here. Items include **Food Items:** Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Pasta & Sauce, Boxed Mac-n-Cheese, Cereal, Canned Soup, Ramen Noodles, Crackers, Other non-perishables; **Adult Hygiene:** Bar Soap, Liquid hand soap, Washcloths & hand towels, Feminine Hygiene, Toothbrush/toothpaste, Antibacterial Wipes, Fingernail Clippers, Hand sanitizer/ alcohol, Toilet paper, Deodorant, Shampoo & Conditioner, Body Lotion; **Baby Items:** Baby wipes, Diapers, Diaper rash ointment, Cotton balls, Extra clothes, Soothing gel, Underpads/changing pads. Please consider helping these new neighbors who have been through great trauma and effort to find a place to make a new life.



Let's be the hands and feet of Jesus!

Young At Heart

Young At Heart finished up with the Summer Arts Festival the middle of July. We enjoyed country music from "Lafferty Pike" and "After Rain" music at the Wingert



Tossey Pavillion. The jazz and blues music was fantastic down at the commons. LaComedia

provided the musical "Wizard of Oz" and the murder mystery of "Shear Madness". I personally like the world-famous violinist Siobhán Cronin



Most of all we enjoyed the Christian fellowship with each other. Some of us have lost our spouses and close friends over the years and these events give us time to invest in a new friendships.

Future events for young at heart will include Saturday Night Fever musical. Maybe the America's Packard Museum, Air Force Museum, Ohio Caverns, Pennsylvania House, Art center and Wescott House, Also dining at old Mill Restaurant or Der Dutchman in Plain City. Join us, meet new friends or develop stronger friendships

An Invitation to Join in Song

The Sanctuary Choir, Grace Notes Handbells and the Handchimes Choirs are all accepting new members. September is a great time to join as the choirs traditionally come back together for a more regular schedule in the fall.



The **Sanctuary Choir** is a dedicated mixed vocal choir of SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) voices who rehearse most Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm, to raise their voices in message and song during Sunday Worship throughout the year, mainly 10:45 am services, both services on most Festival services, Christmas Eve, selected mid-week services, and in the community. This friendly group has a family atmosphere, enjoying fellowship with each other

and are welcoming to new members. Adults and teens with a God-given talent for singing, matching pitch, and blending voices with others in choral part singing are invited to praise our Lord and Savior in the Sanctuary Choir.

Grace Notes Handbell Choir is an instrumental group that rings Schummerich handbells and welcomes adults and youth who read music or who have the ability to learn and are dedicated to practicing and ringing to the glory of God.

Many times, the printed music will include special techniques, such as also playing

handchimes within the same song. Rehearsals are held on selected Wednesdays, 5:30-6:45 pm, and rings for services in various groupings, usually monthly throughout the year.



The instrumental **Handchimes Choir** welcomes participants of all ages and abilities who are interested in learning, practicing, and playing just one or two handchimes of the three-octave instrument. Participants do not need to read music and there are opportunities for younger elementary aged children to participate. Handchimers will have the opportunity to practice and play at special times during the year.

For more information or to join, contact Barbara Blackburn, director, through the church office or email barbara.blackburn@grace-nalc.org

Sunday Morning at the Manor

with Steven, Andy, Dave, and Deb



What a Friend We Have in Jesus...as we ended our Sunday service with this familiar hymn, the 14 people in attendance, sang with voices filled with love and thanksgiving, knowing Jesus was their friend and would be with them always.

Please join us in their prayer requests.

Dear one, Arletta, offered praise to God for providing a roof over her head, prepared meals, and a comfy bed. She also prayed for God to strengthen her enough to allow her to go back home.

**Unknown personal situation with family members and asking God to intervene for a positive outcome
The sister-in-law of a friend who has been diagnosed with cancer. We are asking God for mercy and healing as treatments are decided upon.**

Our next Grace service will be held on September 8th at 2:00. Please know we will hold a seat for you to join us in sharing the Love of Jesus.

**“Can we find a friend so faithful...who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness. Take it to the Lord in prayer.”**

Verse 2- What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Grace NALC 20/20 Vision Campaign Update



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



Giving to this campaign remains steady. In July, Grace took in \$1,340 towards our campaign to support the NALC 20/20 Vision. \$1,270 of these dollars were pledged dollars and \$70 were unpledged dollars. This brings

our total collected through the end of July to \$46,417. Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment.

25th Anniversary Celebration

Grace will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our current location on Sunday, September 29 with **ONE COMBINED SERVICE at 10 a.m.** This single service will allow us time to enjoy additional music, words of remembrance from former Pastor Dan Powell and a challenge message from Pastor Tom Brodbeck as we “Walk on in Grace.”

The service will also be our Consecration Sunday service. Each worshipper present will be invited to the altar to share with God their Estimate of Giving for the 2025 budget and the dedication of their time and talents in service through the ministries of the church.

Estimate of Giving cards will be mailed to each home the third week of September. You should have already received your Time and Talent booklet. You will only need to return the center sheet from that booklet.

Following the single service there will be a church-wide potluck. Sign up sheets will be located in the narthex where you can RSVP and indicate what dish you will be bringing to the meal.

Adult Discipleship in September

September marks the beginning of the fall semester of discipleship opportunities at Grace. Chief among those is the return of our Wednesday night Grace Family Table and Adult FUEL study. Both start on September 4.

At 6 p.m. join your Grace Family around the table as we enjoy delicious food and wonderful fellowship. You can help out as the meal is prepared, by bringing a dessert to share, by assisting with the post-meal cleanup or perhaps volunteering to prepare the entire meal (with help from others). Do you have a specialty? We would all love to enjoy it with you.

At 7 p.m. we move to room N108 where this fall’s study is titled “Hosea – A Love Story.” For 11 weeks Pastor Tom will guide us through this Old Testament prophet’s story of love and betrayal, with lessons on how God feels when His people turn their hearts away from Him. The sessions will be recorded and posted on the Grace app and website for later viewing as well.

The four weeks of Adult Sunday School will use a video study on generosity titled “The Blessed Life.” Adult learners will learn about the heart principle, the principle of first the principle of multiplication enroute to answering the question “Am I generous?”

Children's Ministry



Vacation Bible School 2024 is in the bag, as they say! What a wonderful time everyone had. I want to express my sincere thanks to each and everyone of you who trusted us with your children/grandchildren, led an area, helped with the Openings and Closings, those who helped with our cookout and our many youth who lead a crew of children with kindness and excitement. Leslie McKinney



Children's Ministry Prayer Partners

When I took the position of Director of Children's Ministry, one of the things I felt lead to do was to develop intergenerational relationships. I have been researching this idea and I am ready to move forward. My thought is that an adult would be paired with a child and pray for him/her this school year and the child would pray for you. Both you and the children would fill out an interest inventory, to "get to know" each other. I DO NOT want this to be a monetary relationship.

I am thinking you could exchange birthday cards (which I can provide), note to each other about things you are doing in your life (sort of like a pen pal)., notes of encouragement, etc. I can set up a box in the library as a "mailbox" in which you can check for correspondence. Three or four times a year we would have an activity, in which you could spend time with your partner (think a "tea", game night, etc.). If your prayer partner plays a sport, is in a concert/play or any other organized activity and you would like to attend, that would be wonderful! We will begin in October with a "Get To Know You" gathering. A sign-in sheet and interest inventory will be in the Narthex the beginning of September. If you are interested in learning more, sharing ideas, or becoming a prayer partner, please contact Leslie McKinney. (937-215-2027) or leslie.mckinney@grace-nalc.org

Letter from Shirl Settles

The family of Shirl Settles wants to express how much all the prayers support & cards has meant to us on the recent passing of her Mother Pauline Dowler. It all has been a Blessing. Also with the continued loving prayful support in the loss of her love Dean In God's Grace we Thank You

Financial Stewardship Team

In Deuteronomy 5: 32-33,
Moses reminds the people, “So be careful to do what the Lord, your God, has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or the left”. God promises blessings and flourishing in the new land the people will soon possess.

Then, again, Joshua 1:7-8, just prior to crossing the Jordan and entering Canaan, Joshua says, “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the laws my servant Moses gave you; do not turn to the right or the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.” Trust, obey, stay focused and committed. Their long walk from Egypt, crossing the Jordan and finally walking into the Promised Land.

But what does this mean to us today. For the Christian journey, the “land” represents the spiritual promised land that all believers long for. We have hope as we walk the path seeking a stronger relationship with God, and we focus of the life and teaching of His Son, Jesus. We will receive blessings, peace, and joy along the way...and then abundance of Life in Eternity.

As we continue to walk the path God has set out for us,
Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of this earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.
What a Blessing THAT will be.

Jim Leonard, Stewardship

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



www.grace-nalc.org 937.399.6257

Springfield, OH 45504

1801 St. Paris Pike

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace



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