

# October MESSENGER



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

2024



## Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

When Jesus stood before Pilate, the Roman governor asked an ageless question: "What is truth?" Faced with accusations and rumors, Pilate desperately wanted to know who and what to believe. He did not want to be wrong.

Over these last several weeks I have been asked that same ageless question multiple times: "Pastor, how am I supposed to know who and what to believe?" The question is good and necessary. Whenever I struggle with that same question personally I ask three questions.

First, who is my source? We get information from a host of people every day: Friends, news anchors, parents, social media. Some sources we quickly trust, and others we can quickly dismiss. As I ask this question, I am also asking myself "why would they say this?" and "what will they gain from it?" If I can discover their motive, it helps me decide if this source is credible.

My second question is "what evidence do they have?" When making a decision about truth related issues you want to find "primary evidence." That means I never want to hear someone told someone who heard it from someone else. If you "saw it" I am more like to believe than if you "heard it." Much of the turmoil in our community stems from things "heard" rather than things actually "seen."

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## PASTORS REFLECTION (CONT.)

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My third question is “how much emotion does this stir in me?” If the answer is “a lot,” I immediately back off. Why? Because strong emotions are a clue that I am being misled. Advertisers know this trick well, and we all have been victims of it.

Ultimately, though, as a Christian, I should be taking all of my questions to God in prayer. “Lord, what is true and how should I respond?” As James 1:5 puts it: “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask ... and it will be given to you.”

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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It's hard to believe that it's October already. The year has really flown by especially with Pastor Tom's sabbatical this summer.

Things continue to be busy at Grace. I am really excited about the number of Grace Members who have signed up to help with the Festa ESOL program, Thank you!! I pray for God to be at work in this venture.



An update on our NALC 20/20 Vision campaign:

Total Dollars collected through the end of August = \$26,812

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

Dollars collected towards these pledges through the end of February = \$12,645

Grand Total Collected including the \$20,000 Council donated in 2023 = \$46,812

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 20/20 Vision Campaign option. Pledge cards are also available in the Narthex.

We are currently searching for a new **Director of Youth Ministry**. Please see the website for a full job description and application packet. Please share with anyone you think might be a good fit for this position.

# OCTOBER OUTREACH CORNER



## CHOOSING HOPE ADOPTIONS

Join us for our Breakfast Break on Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> 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!

### Laurel Mission Trip

**Come Join Us!! Grace is sending a team to Laurel Mission again this year and we could use more people on our team!** If

you want to join the team, please reach out to Sandy Thompson. We will also be

collecting canned meat and vegetable donations for their food pantry during the month of October as well as Bibles to give away. Or donate money to buy bulk Bibles. We will be there the week of October 27-November 2, 2024.

Donations are due by 10/27/24 at 9am, they will be leaving with us at that time!



New Outreach Opportunity in Springfield.

**The Gateway** is a home for 18–21-year-old women who don't have a place to live. Founders Don and Audrey McKanna are hoping to open the doors this fall and need some help. They need volunteers to help with getting the home ready, furnishings for the home, volunteers to mentor the girls, and of course prayer.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry opportunity, please see Sandy Thompson for a full list of their current needs.





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# HELP NEEDED!!

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Any adults who might be interested and willing to host the youth here at the church, at an event or in your home. We are looking for volunteers, at least 2 adults please, to help us with Youth Group until we can find a new Director of Youth Ministry. One time is all we are asking, but more would be applauded. Please see Sandy Thompson if you are willing

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to hang out and spend some time with our youth. [sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org](mailto:sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org), 937-399-6257.



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## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL IN OCTOBER

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Adult learners will gather in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. to continue "Growing in Grace." The month of October begins with a Breakfast Break (described more in another article) before moving into a newly created class that will run through the first Sunday in November.

"Elephants, Donkeys and the Lamb" will offer a biblical perspective on the Christian's role and responsibility in the current political climate, with a reminder of where our true citizenship and hope lies.

"We recognize this is a contentious subject," Pastor Tom Brodbeck notes. "But it is an important one for Christians, and especially so in a climate where matters of faith and politics become so intermingled that it is hard to differentiate the two. I am promising a non-partisan but pro-Jesus class."

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## WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT GRACE?

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On Sunday, October 13 Grace will hold its next introductory meeting designed specifically for people who want to know more about Grace Church and its ministries, and who may also be considering membership in this congregation. "What's So Amazing About Grace?" will meet from 3-6 p.m. in the Grace parlor. (Enter through Door #2.)

Those interested in joining will be received into membership on October 27 (Reformation Sunday). An optional building tour will be available at the end of the class. Childcare is available upon request. Advanced registration is requested at 937.399.6257 or by contacting Pastor Brodbeck at [tom.brodbeck@grace-nalc.org](mailto:tom.brodbeck@grace-nalc.org). Questions? See Pastor Tom.

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## REFORMATION SUNDAY

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On October 31, 1517 Professor Martin Luther posted 95 theses (debating points) on the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg Germany, intending to promote a conversation about elements of theology and church practice he felt had strayed from Biblical teaching. Instead of conversation, Luther unintentionally launched what has become known as the Protestant Reformation.

Luther was both a respected professor at nearby Wittenberg University, as well as the assistant pastor of the Castle Church. Luther chose October 31 because it was the day before All Saints' Day. The Castle Church's front door opened on a main street of the city, and it was a good place to post a notice for public viewing.

Luther knew that on the next day, November 1 — All Saints' Day — the church would be filled with worshipers, many of whom were educated and literate. His act of posting his *Ninety-Five Theses* on the door was the equivalent of publishing a journal article, taking out a newspaper ad, or putting up an Internet website today.

Our worship on October 27 will include hymns and prayers written by Luther to commemorate this foundational event in our denomination's history. You are encouraged to wear the color red as a part of this celebration.

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# CHARITY AUCTION

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**REMINDER**

**of our**

**CHARITY AUCTION**

**December 7, 2024**

**9:00 a.m. to NOON!**

**IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER**

**If you are donating this year, please contact Janet Rice to advise her of your donation. You can begin delivering items to Janet the week of November 17.**

**We are looking forward to seeing your handy work!**

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## FROM GRACE CARD MINISTRY

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Dear Members of Grace,

Thank you for all of the prayers and cards for Pastor Steve Becker during his recent illness. They were truly appreciated. He is "over the hump" and well on his way to recovery. It will be a long and slow process. However, he is hoping to lead worship in late August. We'll see how that goes! :)

In Christ's Peace,

Carla and Pastor Steve Becker

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# THE GRACE MUSIC ROOM

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The renovations of the Music Room are complete and were in time to celebrate the church's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary here in Grace's present location. The Choir uses the Music Room for weekly Wednesday rehearsals, warm-ups before services, and after services to return items, such as music, folders, and choir robes. Through the years other groups have also met in the room. So, the Music Room has had a great deal of use during the past 25 years.

Funds from the Grace Endowment were requested by Barbara Blackburn, choir director to make the improvements. Last year the worn carpeting was replaced on the tiered risers and provided a safer and a dramatic difference to the room. This year the Endowment request written with assistance from Mark Grimes, was granted and provided the funds to upgrade the chairs in the Music Room. The existing chairs, purchased 25 years ago from the Sauder Company in Ohio are singing posture appropriate, comfortable, and still very sturdy. But, through the years, the fabric upholstery and foam backing had been damaged or deteriorated with age. Replacement seats and backs for the existing chairs could be purchased and at a substantial cost savings. Five additional chairs were also part of the request for funds to accommodate a growing number of participants in the choir.

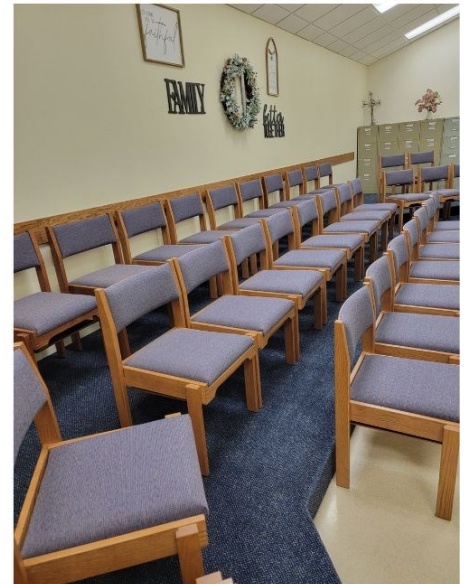
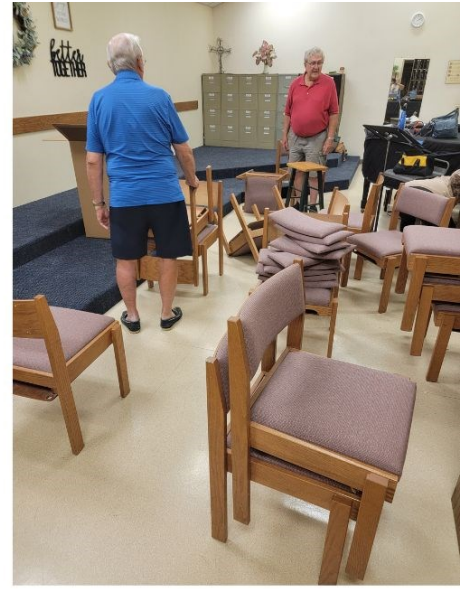
The following choir members volunteered their time and labor to disassemble and reassemble the chairs with the new replacement seats and backs. THANK YOU to Neal (who coordinated the project) & Barbara Blackburn, Victoria Barnes, Carolyn Clifton, David & Cathy Holl, Jim Kincaid (who had the honor of sitting in the 1<sup>st</sup> completed chair which he completed!), Sonya Ryhal, Kay Reed, and Barbara Romaca. Thanks, also to Victoria Barnes for completing the room with the beautiful wall décor.

Enjoy all the photos from the chairs upgrade. But, as they say, "it's better in person." Everyone is invited to come, peek in, and experience the "new" Music Room for yourself. (And if you'd like to sing in the room, you can join our choir. Just speak to Barbara... we'll save you a seat!)

Barbara Blackburn,  
Sanctuary Choir Director



# THE GRACE MUSIC ROOM





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# HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AND ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

ON NOV. 9

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Are you a woman? If so, please save the date of Saturday, November 9 from 12 – 2 pm to attend the Women of Grace Holiday Luncheon and Ornament Exchange at Grace Community Center/Fellowship Hall.

This is a great opportunity for the Women of Grace to have some fun and wonderful fellowship. You will get to know some new women and you will get to learn more about other women you already know. Each participant will bring a Christmas ornament that is wrapped (and/or in a gift bag). We have planned a wonderful scripture-based game to use to exchange our gift ornaments. A lunch of assorted wraps and salads will be provided.

A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex later during October and up until November 3 so remember to sign up. A donation of \$5 toward the cost of your lunch will be requested when you sign in.

If you have any questions and/or like to help at this event, please contact Donna Stelzer at 937 902 0671.

**Save the Date: Saturday Nov. 9**

**Bringing  
Back a  
Tradition**

**Women of Grace  
Luncheon  
&  
Ornament Exchange**

Grace Lutheran Church  
Saturday, November 9, 2024  
Noon - 2 PM  
Fun & Fellowship For Women

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# OCTOBER STEWARDSHIP

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He stands with you.

2 Timothy 4-17

The Lord stood with me and strengthened me. Standing alone takes strength. Like Paul if you face challenges of this world, the Lord is with you to guide and support. He will deliver you through his word and powerful promises.

If you feel alone and need a reminder that God is with you, just ask him to lead you ahead with scripture and fellowship with his people. Remember we are always walking with Jesus when we allow him in our life.

Charles Lantz

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



[www.grace-nalc.org](http://www.grace-nalc.org) 937.399.6257

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Evangelical Lutheran Church



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