

20

June

25

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Messenger



Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

Just as I sat down to type these words my cell phone pinged with a scam message. It looked legitimate at first, coming from a name I knew from years ago, asking how I was. I fell for that part and responded. The follow-up text made me aware that my friend's account had been hijacked. It was that easy.

The Scriptures teach us that the devil works in that kind of sly and subtle way. In 2 Corinthians 11:14 we read: "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." This means that the devil deceives people by appearing good, truthful and loving, qualities that are desired by God, but they are all a scam. They are designed to trick us and lead us away from the truth.

What's the cure? Well, when it comes to my phone, I have to be aware of the possibility that someone with bad motives may be lurking nearby,

and I need to learn as much as I can about the tricks used by such people. Similarly, I need to know how the devil works, and how God works too. That only happens as I read God's Word and as I spend time in the fellowship of the community of faith.

Our world is filled with misleading information. Most of us are sharp enough to recognize the really bad stuff, but we are all susceptible to the masquerades of the devil. It sounds right, sounds good, looks good and may even be fun! But if you partake, you will eventually find out you are another victim.

My story ends well. I quickly cut off the conversation and blocked the intruding "friend." And then I prayed ... for my friend whose account was hacked, for the person trying to mislead me, and for all of you.

JUNE OUTREACH CORNER



Save the Date: Sunday June 29th:

Our Breakfast Break will feature Josh Storts from WittCo, a campus outreach ministry at Wittenberg University. Come and learn more about the challenges he is facing in today's college climate and how you can be part of a movement to help draw more college students to Christ. Wittenberg University needs our prayers now more than ever as many of their students have never even

heard about Christ and all He has to offer them. Wittenberg has faced many struggles in recent years and wouldn't it be great if we could share the good news of Christ with them?! Be there during the Adult Sunday School hour, 9:15 am, Fellowship Hall.

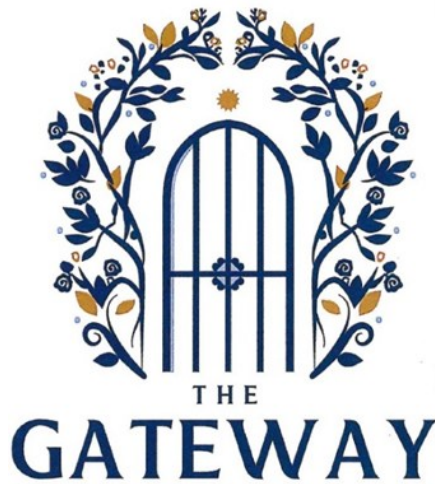


Disaster Response

Natural Disasters continue to happen across our country. From floods to hurricanes to tornadoes. The NALC Disaster Response team is busy year-round helping the victims of these disasters all over the United States and their warehouses rapidly go

through their supplies. During the month of June, we will be collecting Flood Buckets and Health Care Kits to help the Disaster Response Team continue to help the victims of these disasters. Please see the Narthex display or the Grace website for directions on what and how to pack one of these kits so we can help them refill their warehouses. See Sandy Thompson or Steve Schumacher for more information.

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 open and currently have two young ladies living in the home. They are in need of a house parent or parents, an assistant manager, and volunteers to mentor the girls, and of course prayer.

They could also use crosses for a prayer tower they're making, perennial flowers to spruce up the home, and gently used DVD's/movies. Please see Sandy Thompson for more information.

NALC 202 VISION



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



Thanks to your generous support, as of April 30, 2025, Grace has met its goal of \$60,000 for the denomination's 20/20 Vision

Campaign. Thanks be to God for helping us achieve this goal!! We cannot express our appreciation enough for your continued support of this campaign.

The NALC overall is just under halfway to their goal of received dollars but just over halfway on dollars pledged as of the end of 2024. Some of you still have a few months remaining on your pledges, so we encourage you to continue even though the overall goal has been met. Your Grace Council would love to see our total far surpass our original projection.

You can donate through the Grace app or our website: (www.grace-nalc.org). On the website, you can find the link in the banner at the top of the home page. You also can mark your check or offering envelope for the 20/20 Vision Campaign. Any gift, no matter the size, makes an impact. Nothing is too small.

THANK YOU



A huge Thank You to all who participated in the gift card collections for the Springfield City Schools this year!!!

The Family Outreach staff cannot express enough how much they appreciate your generosity. They are so completely thrilled at how your gifts will be able to bless their students and families and wanted you to know how very grateful they are for your donations!!!

YOUNG AT HEART

Things are heating up with "Young at Heart!" By the time you are reading this article we have visited The Gary Blevins Art Gallery, here in Springfield, went to LaComedia for the performance of "Children of Eden", and we enjoyed the music of Kent Brooks at the United Methodist Church Sanctuary Series.

Future events are May 28, Champion City Kings, Home Opener at 6:35 p.m. On June 21st, Dayton Dragons baseball game. Our very own Dan Shroyer will receive a honorary veteran award and throw out the first pitch. Back to LaComedia dinner theatre on June 27th for the performance of "Matilda. We hope that you will join us for some Christian love and fellowship.

Roger and Sonya



FAITH STORY: STEVEN PIEL

Have you ever been asked when you first came to know Jesus? I can't answer this question with a specific place or date. I was raised in the Lutheran church, baptized, attended Sunday School and worship services with few exceptions, VBS each summer, completed a rigorous confirmation, and read the Bible and Small Catechism. I did all the things that gave me knowledge of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I knew the Lord as my Savior. But knowing and truly being in relationship with Him are not the same.

Throughout my life, Christ has never ceased calling me closer to Him. Through the valleys, I am often reminded He is always present. Like Proverbs 3:5-6, He teaches me to trust in Him with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding, but on Him. When I don't listen to His voice, He reminds me that His will shall be done, not mine. His goodness and love guide me along the right path.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Paul writes, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." It is in the valleys, as difficult as they can be, when I have most clearly seen God's hand and His plan for me unfold. It is through these experiences that my faith and relationship have grown beyond simply knowing Him. I give Him praise for His unceasing love, my relationship with Him today, and the strength that gives me.

SECRET SISTER REVEAL PARTY

On May 5, 2025, the Women of Grace (WOG) who participated in our Secret Sister program got together for the "Reveal Party". That is a party where each Secret Sister reveals who the Secret Sister was that she had been supporting with prayers, cards and small gifts for the past 4 months. At the May 5 event, we talked about the Power of Prayer in Friendships and each recipient received at least 2 prayer cards. In addition, many of our door prize winners received a small stack of prayer cards. Throughout the evening, we did several different activities to get to know each other better. We discussed some of our favorite aspects of Spring and we discussed our personal morning routines. We certainly learned things about each other (even those we thought we already knew.) Toward the end of the event, each Secret Sister announced the name of the woman she had been praying for and provided a gift to that person. We also enjoyed a variety of desserts. Toward the end of the event, each participant was asked to complete a quick survey about the Sister Program to let us know about potential changes in our Secret Sister Program for the future. Also, each attendee brought along one of their favorite recipes and by the end of the event, each attendee went home with a copy of our recipe booklet, a memento to remember this special event. Below are some pictures from the Secret Sister Reveal Party. We invite all women of Grace to join us for the WOG Monday Night Bible Study coming up in mid-September and the next round of WOG's Secret Sister Program tentatively scheduled for the start of 2026. Below are some photos of the event!



OUR EMPTY TOMB SNACK

The Sunday before Easter, we learned about the women going to Jesus' tomb and when they got there, the tomb was empty. Miss Leslie explained that she made this special snack by rolling a marshmallow in brown sugar and cinnamon and rolling up in a crescent roll. Everyone was surprised when they took a bite of the snack to find that there was no marshmallow inside! Just like Jesus' tomb!



2025 1ST COMMUNION



Austin Quesenberry, Rizer Bucey, Pastor Tom, Elijah Reed
Iris Mohler, Sydney Reimers,

GRACE GOES TO THE BALLPARK



This was a big hit, no pun intended, last year, so let's rally our support for our choir singing the National Anthem again this year. Everyone is invited to attend the Champion City Kings Baseball game on Sunday, June 29. The Kings are scheduled to play the Lafayette Aviators. Grace Sanctuary Choir members will be singing the National Anthem at approximately 3:55

p.m. before the game begins with the first pitch at 4:05 p.m. In case of rain cancellation, the game will be rescheduled at a later date. Come out, enjoy the ballgame, and arrive before the first pitch for the National Anthem sung by members of the Choir.

There will be more information and a sign up in the Narthex for those planning to attend.

Please sign up and pay for tickets by June 25th to get group rate tickets at \$5 each.

Be sure to pick up your tickets on Sunday June 29 during normal worship hours.

See Sandy Thompson or Darla Kalifoot for more information.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Starting June 15, the Adult Sunday School class will begin a study of Greg Finke's book "Joining Jesus on His Mission: Show Me How." This is the sequel to a study we did in the summer of 2019, and it reinforces the letter "R" in our Discipleship acronym (Re-telling Your Faith Story).

Christians have been duped into believing that discipling is so complex that it is beyond the ability of most Christians. But that myth stands in stark contrast to what we actually see Jesus doing in the Gospels.

This study will help you regain the clarity and simplicity of how Jesus did what He instructs all of us to do: make disciples of your children, friends, neighbors and fellow church members. Join us as we learn how to join Jesus on His mission.

THANK YOU LETTER

Dear friends from Grace

Harry and I want to thank you for all your cards and concerns and prayers during Harry's stay in the hospital and recouping from his illness. You have offered us hope and comfort during this time.

God bless all of you

Harry and Cathy Zernechel

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Contemporary worship will be the first Sunday of
June and

June 29th at 10:45 a.m.



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



CURRENT RESIDENT OR

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