

# 20 *August* 25

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## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Messenger

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### Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

I write this reflection on my first official day back in my Grace office following my recent knee replacement surgery. It is good to be back. I received scores of "get well" cards from you all, and I am quite grateful for them and the sentiments they expressed.

One of the things I am learning in rehab is that I have developed some very unhelpful habits over the years. In order to compensate for (or avoid) some of the pains caused by this bad knee these habits have become second nature to me. I don't even realize I am doing them. Thus, my physical therapists are coaching me through standing and sitting, walking across the floor and climbing the stairs. "You're doing it again," is a phrase I've heard them say repeatedly.

When Moses was coaching the children of Israel about how to walk with God in the days before they finally entered the Promised Land, he urged them to develop the habits that would make their walk successful. He suggested exercises that would impress new and good habits into their lives. But history showed that they got lazy and reverted to their old ways. Read more about it in Deuteronomy 6.

We are like them, aren't we? I am. As I sat down in my chair to type these words, I realized that I had once again sat down incorrectly. How easy it is to rely on those bad habits! So I stood up and sat down again and again and again. I need to get it right. I want to get it right! Both physically and spiritually.

# AUGUST OUTREACH CORNER

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**Snowhill School Supply Drive:** During the month of August we will be collecting school supplies for the teachers at Snowhill School. Pencil pouches, black dry erase markers, glue sticks, composition notebooks, plastic folders, and headphones (not earbuds) are a few of the needed items, but please see the list available in the narthex. Return items by August 24th. See Sandy Thompson for more information.

## WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS – A GARDEN MINISTRY MILESTONE

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For 17 years, Jerry Angst and Terry & Judy Fredrich have lovingly led our Garden Ministry—and what an incredible impact they've had. Each year, they've harvested an average of 8,000 pounds of vegetables, with donations blessing local food pantries—\$9,000 in 2023 alone!

Their dedication has gone far beyond the harvest: they've weeded, washed, fought pests, and even shared recipes and samples. Their care has nourished both our community and our spirits.

Now, it's time for them to step down. Please take a moment to thank them for their faithful service. We will deeply miss their passion and productivity and wish them all the best on their next journey.

If you're interested in continuing—or reimagining—this ministry, please contact Sandy Thompson to learn more.

Thank you, Jerry, Terry, and Judy—you've sown blessings that will last for years to come.

# YOUNG AT HEART

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Young at Heart was busy in June and July. We enjoyed Matilda the musical, the Dragons baseball game, and music in the

Park with Parrots of the Caribbean, and the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. Join us the month at La Comedia Dinner

Theatre for the "Play, That Goes Wrong." Check the narthex for upcoming events. Have questions, contact Roger

Bentz or Sonya Ryhal Kincaid.



## JOY

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John 15:11 — Jesus says,

"I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

Two ministries in which I serve bring me great joy:

Kairos is a 3½-day prison ministry focused on sharing Christ's love and forgiveness with incarcerated men and women, as well as prison staff. The name Kairos means "God's time." This ministry helps deepen faith, change hearts, and encourage better choices, which in turn reduces violence and repeat offenses. Serving on a Kairos team fills me with joy as I see lives transformed and faith renewed.

The Walk to Emmaus is a 72-hour spiritual retreat that renews discipleship and strengthens churches. Participants (pilgrims) spend time in reflection, worship, fellowship, and small groups. It brings me joy to witness pilgrims and team members alike grow in faith and commit to bringing Christ's love to their families, workplaces, and communities.

The next Men's Emmaus Walk will be in the spring. Please pray with me that the joy of Jesus will be deeply felt by everyone involved — that their joy may be complete.

Joy is a gift we can offer — and it can change lives.

# REMINDER: AUGUST MEANS TIME TO SIGN UP FOR WOMEN'S FALL BIBLE STUDY

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All Women of Grace are invited to participate in Women's Fall Bible Study and you are invited to bring your friends with you. This Bible Study will cover The Fruit of the Spirit Reflecting the Character of God. By popular demand, Nora Charney is back this fall to lead us in this Life Change Topical Study. Register or confirm your early registration on Sunday August 31 or Sunday September 7 and pick up your copy of the workbook on those dates following early service or before late service (10:20 – 10:45). The cost of the workbook is \$7.00 per person but if you need that cost covered for you, the cost will be FREE – thanks to the Endowment Funds. Please register even if you know now that you might have to miss some sessions – we will show you how to keep up to date.

To Register or Ask Questions Contact Donna Stelzer at

937 902 0671 or dmstelzer@gmail.com

 <p><i>Women's Bible Study</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #FFD700;"><p><b>Confirm Your Registration &amp; Pick up Your Book for This Study in Grace's Narthex on:</b></p></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #FFF2CC;"><p><b>Aug. 31 or Sept. 7</b></p></div> <p><b>9 AM – 9:15 AM</b> following early service or <b>10:20 – 10:45 AM</b> prior to late service</p> 	  <p><b>The Fruit of the Spirit</b> A Bible Study on Reflecting the Character of God 9 Sessions Monday Evenings Sept 15 – Nov. 10 6:30 – 7:30 PM Grace Lutheran Church Room N 108 Questions?? Call Donna Stelzer 937 902 0671</p>
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# ANNUAL WOMEN OF GRACE LUNCHEON AND ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

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Our Annual Women of Grace Luncheon and Ornament Exchange will be held in Grace's Fellowship Hall on Saturday December 13 from Noon – 2:15 pm. Each attendee will bring an ornament that is wrapped and using a fun game we will discover who gets each ornament. All Attendees will also receive instruction about prayer journaling along with their own personal copy of a 52 Week Prayer Journal for Women. Thanks to Endowment Funds, we will provide those journals free of charge to each attendee. So, remember to mark that date on your calendar now!

**Save the Date: Sat. Dec. 13!**

**Women of Grace Luncheon & Ornament Exchange**

Each Attendee will also receive a free copy of Prayer Journal for Women & Learn about Prayer Journaling!

Grace Lutheran Church  
Saturday, December 13  
Noon – 2:15 PM  
Fun, Fellowship & Learning For Women

**More details to come! For now, save the date!**

## THANK YOU LETTER

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Steeg and I want to thank the congregation for all the prayers, cards, and concerns during my recovery from surgery. We are blessed to have a lovingly church family.

God Bless,

Steeg and Diane Hertz

# CHARITY AUCTION PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY

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The annual Grace Lutheran Charity Auction will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 9:00 AM to Noon for the benefit of Emerge Recovery & Trade Initiative in Xenia.

Emerge is a rather unique faith-based mission that empowers those in addiction recovery and former foster youth to rebuild their lives through transformational and vocational pathways. Combining faith-based teaching with skilled trades certifications, Emerge helps its clients start new lives and careers.

Sandy and Chris have visited with the leadership at Emerge and are excited to partner with such a great mission. We will be giving you more information in the coming weeks.

As in past years, your donation of items and time will make the Auction the success it has always been. Your gifts of crafts such as woodworking, quilting, sewing, stained glass or other unique items will make the event a success. Last year we raised \$9,000 to support our local mission partner!

Please think about how you can make this year's auction a resounding success. Watch for a sign-up table in the Narthex and stay tuned for more information as we draw closer to December 6!

## LEAVE A LEGACY OF SERVICE AND GENEROSITY

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August is **National Make a Will Month** and it would only take a few moments to think about how you can leave a legacy of generosity and positive impact in the lives of others through your will. You don't have to be rich to make a big difference for your church and community.

In this age of billionaires and so-called mega gifts, it is easy to overlook the fact that the largest gifts to churches and charities are often the estate gifts of the average donor.

Yet, it is a sad fact that only 45% of people over the age of 55 have a will!

Please, take the time to review your plans with your spouse, your family and your financial advisors. Should you wish to receive information about how you might include Grace Lutheran in your plans, please contact Chris Norman, Director of Lay Ministries.

# AUGUST CALENDER 2025

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**Friday, Aug 1**

10:00 am—3:00 pm MRDD  
8:00 pm Community Group

**Saturday, Aug 2**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, Aug 3**

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:45 am Worship  
8:00 pm Community Group

**Monday, Aug 4**

10:00 am—2:00 pm MRDD

**Tuesday, Aug 5**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
10:00 am—2:00 pm MRDD  
11:30 am Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, Aug 6**

10:00 am—2:00 pm MRDD

**Thursday, Aug 7**

11:00 am Adult Bible Study  
10:00 am—2:00 pm MRDD  
1:00 pm Quilters

**Friday, Aug 8**

10:00 am—2:00 pm MRDD  
8:00 pm Community Group

**Saturday, Aug 9**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, Aug 10**

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:45 am Worship  
8:00 pm Community Group

**Monday, Aug 11****Tuesday, Aug 12**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am Staff Meeting  
2:00 pm Joy Guild  
6:00 pm Exec. Comm  
7:00 pm Cub Scouts

**Wednesday, Aug 13**

1:30 pm Charity

**Thursday, Aug 14**

11:00 am Adult Bible Study  
1:00 pm Quilters

**Friday, Aug 15**

8:00 pm Community Group

**Saturday, Aug 16**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, Aug 17**

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School  
9:15 am Child/Parent Meeting  
10:45 am Worship/Baptism  
8:00 pm Community Group

**Monday, Aug 18**

6:00 pm Long Range  
6:00 pm Prayer Team

**Tuesday, Aug 19**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am Staff Meeting  
7:00 pm Council  
7:00 pm Cub Scouts

**Wednesday, Aug 20****Thursday, Aug 21**

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

**Friday, Aug 22**

8:00 pm Community Group

**Saturday, Aug 23**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, Aug 24**

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:45 am Worship  
8:00 pm Community Group

**Monday, Aug 25**

6:00 pm Stephen Ministry

**Tuesday, Aug 26**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
8am—4pm Community Group  
11:30 am Staff Meeting  
7:00 pm Cub Scouts

**Wednesday, Aug 27**

6:30 pm Griefshare

**Thursday, Aug 28**

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

**Friday, Aug 29**

8:00 pm Community Group

**Saturday, Aug 30**

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, Aug 31**

8:00 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:45 am Worship  
8:00 pm Community Group

# STEWARDSHIP

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## James 1:2-3

*“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance*

When life gets hard, joy is usually the last thing on our minds. Yet James tells us to “consider it pure joy” when we face trials. How is that possible? Because trials aren’t meaningless—they have a purpose. They test and strengthen our faith, just as fire refines gold. Every challenge we endure with trust in God shapes us into who He created us to be.

True joy isn’t the absence of problems; it’s the presence of God and the confidence that He is working in our situation. When we understand that hardship produces perseverance and spiritual maturity, we can see our trials not as obstacles, but as opportunities for growth.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving me enough to grow me through challenges. Help me to see trials as opportunities to deepen my faith and trust in You. Give me the strength to persevere and the joy that only comes from Your presence. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**Jake Rembold**

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