

# 20 *September* 25

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## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Messenger

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### Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

September is an important month for us at Grace. If you have been around here for any length of time you know that this is our season for planning and preparing for the ministries that will define us in the following calendar year. It is Stewardship Month, meaning that by month's end we will know what our 2026 budget will be and who will be serving in the various ministries of the church.

Our theme for the month emphasizes the J.O.Y. of stewarding our Time, Talent, Treasure and Testimony (the four "T"s). If it is done correctly, a Christian should find great joy in giving, serving and sharing back to God through the ministry of the church. Your participation in all of these is one way to say: "I believe in what my church is doing for the Kingdom of God."

The J.O.Y. acronym, as you may know, stands for Jesus, Others and You, a reminder that true and lasting joy only happens as you prioritize Jesus and Others over yourself. How is God calling you to make a difference for Him and for Others in the months ahead?

It is my prayer that you open your hearts to what God is saying to you this month as you listen to and consider the challenges to serve and give with joyful hearts. Together we can continue to build a great church for the glory of God.

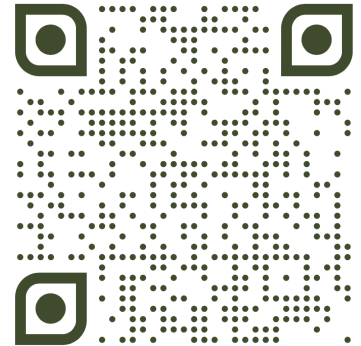
# SEPTEMBER OUTREACH CORNER

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**September Outreach Focus:** During the month of September, we will be collecting baby formula for Pregnancy Resource Clinic. The need for baby formula has risen dramatically in recent years as has the cost of this formula. PRC is hosting a **"One Can at a Time"** campaign to help them keep up their ability to provide this much needed item to families in

need. The need is for: **Enfamil powder formula, yellow can, 12.5 ounces or the Enfamil Gentlease.** PLEASE purchase only these types of formula. Babies don't tolerate changing this well. If you prefer a monetary donation, use this QR code:



**Save the Date:** Our next Breakfast Break will be Sunday October 5th at 9:15 am. Hopefully you read the information Chris Norman, our new

Director of Lay Ministry, shared in August about **Emerge Recovery and Trade Initiative**, recipient for the Annual Grace Auction this year. If not, please go back and check it out. They are doing some fantastic work getting troubled adults into the working world. They will share more with us in October to help us know them better prior to the auction in December.



The Habitat for Humanity of Greater Dayton's new annual Faith Build initiative has goal to unite local churches to help build a home for a local family. Grace has supported this initiative

financially but there are more ways to help at the individual level too. If you are interested in being a part of this effort, see Sandy Thompson for more information, [sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org](mailto:sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org), or 937-399-6257. Ways you can help include: volunteering to help at the Faith Build worksite, building or serving those who are volunteering (food, water, support), a one-time gift of any dollar amount, or Pray and help spread the word about our Faith Unity Build to help us recruit individual and/or business donors.

# SEPTEMBER OUTREACH CORNER

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Snowhill is a place where Grace has a great partnership to provide ministry outreach several times a year. We collect school supplies, coats, deliver food baskets, Christmas presents, and help

with their teacher appreciation too. This summer a few Grace members provided an activity for the kids during the Summer Lunch program as well. Would you be interested in being on a team to help support these projects and determine if there might be other ways we can be the hands and feet of Jesus to these local children? If this sounds of interest to you, please reach out to Sandy Thompson: [sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org](mailto:sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org), or 937-399-6257.

## GRACE OUTREACH IMPACT

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### GRACE OUTREACH IMPACT SECOND QUARTER 2025



Breakfast Break 2nd Quarter 2025: \$1596.30 for Heather Townsend, Middle East Missionary



Grocery and Gas Cards for Springfield HS homeless teens: \$510



25 Baby Bottles filled for Pregnancy Resource Clinic



NALC Disaster Relief: 4 flood buckets, 9 medical kits, 16 quilts, 1 box of Bibles, \$125 in gift cards to Lowe's/Home Depot

# THANK YOU FROM HEATHER TOWNSEND

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## **Please consider continued support for Heather!!**

Greetings from Egypt, Grace Lutheran!

I'm deeply grateful for your support- your prayers and giving make it possible for me to keep sharing God's love and light in everyday spaces. At work, I've been having regular conversations around growth- physical, mental, and spiritual. It's incredible to witness how God is moving in each person's journey and how our diverse team is growing closer through these moments.

On a personal level, friendships of both faiths are deepening, opening doors to more meaningful conversations. Just today, I hosted 25 young adults from church for a luncheon in my home. Because your generosity helps sustain my living space, you were all co-hosts in spirit- thank you for making that gathering possible!

As I look ahead, I would be grateful for your prayers- for renewed energy, joy, and peace. Lately, I've been averaging about four hours of sleep and often wake up to the Call to Prayer, which has become a quiet moment of intercession but also a challenge to rest well.

If you'd like to know more about how to support or pray specifically, please reach out to Sandy- she can help connect us!

Thank you again for partnering with me in the journey.  
Your encouragement means more than words can express.

With love and gratitude,  
Heather

Donate online: [cmfi.org/agape4africa](https://cmfi.org/agape4africa) or scan QR code



# COME, NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP!

## SPRINGFIELD MANOR

### 404 E. MCCREIGHT AVENUE

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Grace has wonderful, Christ centered teams and ministries. We have so many in fact, that we are asking for each of you to donate a one-time visit sharing the love of Jesus with our Grace congregants at Springfield Manor. If your ministry volunteers one month, we will have 12 groups sharing with their brothers and sisters of Springfield Manor in a year.

We arrive around 1:50 pm the first Sunday of each month for a service that begins at 2:00. We sing songs, listen to a short sermon, and pray. Sound familiar? Yes, we offer a service similar to our home base Grace.

Please pray with your ministry, asking God to place a visit on your hearts. We have faith this is God's idea and will have a sign-up sheet in the narthex with the service dates. What joy your group would bring to our service. The majority of the people residing at Springfield Manor are alone and they depend on the kindness of others.

St. Teresa of Avila reminds us that "Yours are the eyes through which He looks with compassion on the world. Christ has no body on earth but yours."

Come and share the body of Christ with your Manor brothers and sisters. You will be blessed. Our next church service will be September 7th.

Who will be the first ministry to join us? The Young at Heart to share your joy of fellowship? The Quilting Guild to share why you create beautiful quilts and bring an example? The Grace Choir to help us sing? Men's Bible Study to serve as a great example of how men who read the Bible become stronger in the Word and friendships? Will it be you?

Andy and Steven Schumacher

Deb O'Neal



# YOUNG AT HEART

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Summer is coming to a close fast. The Young at Heart group visited La Comedia dinner theater and saw the musical "The Play That Went Wrong." Join us for music in the garden later this month and also another La Comedia musical on September 19th called "Legally Blonde". Sign up in the Narthex

Roger and Sonya



## MIDWEEK FUEL RETURNS

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Starting Wednesday, September 3, our midweek "FUEL" sessions resume at Grace. The evening will begin around the Grace Family Table as a scrumptious homemade meal is served at 6 p.m. As always you are encouraged to bring a dessert and to use that time to become better acquainted with other members of our church family. Key words: Mingle and enjoy!

At 7 p.m. Pastor Tom will offer a 12-week study of his favorite book of the Bible: Philippians. The study is titled "Joy – No Matter What." That class will be held in N108 and will be recorded for those of you who are unable to attend every week. Handouts will be available in the foyer.

Our handbells rehearse at 5:30 p.m. and the Sanctuary Choir does the same at 7 p.m. Our fall session of the GriefShare ministry also happens at 6:30 p.m.

All of this makes for a great night to be together!

# FAITH STORY: JIM SUDDATH

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I was baptized on October 12, 1941 in New York City when I was just under four months old. In my youth I attended several churches from a Presbyterian Church in Manhattan to a Roman Catholic Church in the Bronx-whichever church had a good basketball team and needed a power forward.

I remained a "nominal" Christian until I was apart of the combat during the Tet offensive in Vietnam in 1968. There is truth in the military saying "that there are no atheists in a foxhole". With death & loss all around you, one starts thinking that there has to be an eternity beyond the current chaos. I started to seriously study my theological library from my Jesuit college education & watching Billy Graham crusades on TV.

When I was 32 and living in Indianapolis, one Sunday I got as far as a church parking lot, but recognized some "good people" I knew, and I, as a sinner, didn't believe I belonged there. Shortly thereafter, I finally understood that all are sinners, so it became very easy to join a church and be with my peers asking for God's forgiveness.

A final step in my journey subsequently occurred at a Promise Keepers event, when Pastor Tony Evans, in his colorful & direct way, spoke directly to me what it meant to be a mature Christian man: lead your household DAILY in prayer and live uprightly in ALL things.

Since then, my bride and I have lived 50 plus years in Christian joy and steadfastness through all the vicissitudes of life thrown our way.

## MUSIC CALENDER

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Saturday, September 6, 5:00 pm

Choir & Bells Potluck (at Grace, outside, weather permitting)

[Note: CC & K for food. If weather isn't good, potluck will also be inside CC.]

Sanctuary Choir

Practices on Wednesdays September 3, 17, 24, 7:00 pm

(MR/S)

Grace Notes

Practice on Wednesday, September 24, 5:30 pm (S)

[Note: It is correct that there will no practice on September 10.]

# JOY: JIMMEL LEONARD

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"Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth; serve the Lord with gladness. Come into His Presence with singing." Psalm 100: 1-2

What causes you to make a joyful noise? The beginning of another school year? Finding those lost keys? A Buckeye win? The Apollo Moon Landing in 1969? A family vacation on the beach? Finally finishing 2 Chronicles? Or maybe the movie 'The Sound of Music'? (me)

Music has always been a part of my life. My dad was a Perry Como wannabe. We had weekly TV shows like 'Sing Along with Mitch' and the 'Lawrence Welk Show'. Sermons topics and scriptures often connect me to a song or two. Singing during worship lifts our spirits. Singing in the Grace choir is a blessing. AND we all sound good in the shower.

I smile as I think that Jesus must have sung. All those trips to Jerusalem to celebrate the many Jewish festivals gave him many opportunities. Matt. 26:30 tells us Jesus sang a hymn with his disciples at The Last Supper. It could have been the Passover Hallel.

We are all called to praise God with joy and enthusiasm. So, let's sing together here at Grace. It will be amazing. (YouTube, search for Rizers: Psalm 100: 1-2.)

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