

# 20 *October* 25

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## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Messenger

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### Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

I have just started to read a new book titled "In Search of God's Will." So far, so good. I am reading it for a Book Club I participate in, but it might make an appearance in some future Sunday School course offering.

In these early chapters the author, Trevor Hudson, is distinguishing between the "general will" of God (what all Christians are to do – like loving our neighbors) and the "specific will" God has for each of our lives. This latter category includes such things as "what career to follow, whom to marry, where to reside, when to retire" and such.

Being able to discern God's specific will for my life requires that I know and hear God's voice. In John 10, Jesus describes how sheep know the voice of their shepherd and will not follow any other voice. We need that same awareness.

We hear a lot of voices in our world today, each clamoring for our ear. Many of them try to out-shout every other voice that is speaking. To which voice do we listen? Sometimes it is hard to know.

But as the author reminds us from the story of Elijah, our God usually speaks in a gentle whisper." Go back and read that wonderful Biblical story in 1 Kings 19:1-18. And then find a quiet place where you can simply listen. What great advice! Once this article is finished, I will do just that. Join me?

# SEPTEMBER OUTREACH CORNER

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Join us for our Breakfast Break on Sunday

October 5th at 9:15 am. Our friends from **Emerge**

**Recovery and Trade Initiative** will be here to

share more about who they are and the wonderful work they are doing to help provide training and support services to recovering addicts to help them get back on their feet including securing valuable work skills to gain employment. Please come join us to hear more about this fantastic program and get yourself ready to support them even further as the recipient of the proceeds from our Grace auction this year.

## **This year our team will be going to Laurel Mission the week of October 19 – 25.**

If you've praying about joining the team, we'd love to have you join us!! Please reach out to Sandy Thompson. During the month of October, we will also be collecting canned meat and vegetable donations for their food pantry as well as Bibles to give away. Donations are due by 10/19/25 at 9am, they will be leaving with us at that time!



**St John's Food Pantry:** November is one of our months to serve at St John's food



pantry. Their current needs include: canned fruit, Mac & Cheese, crackers, ramen noodles, canned soup, and cereal. Please place donations in the shopping cart in Community Center through the month of July but no later than November 16th. See Judy Fredrich for more information and if you're interested in serving or helping, they could use more help.

# WELCOME RUST:

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## **We'd like to welcome our new Director of Youth Ministry- Rust Boster.**

Rustin "Rust" Boster joined Grace as Director of Youth Ministries in September 2025. His diverse career spans roles at legal firms, in hospice, multiple administrative roles and benefits analysis. His last ministry position prior to Grace was for a church plant in Sacramento, CA where he served as Associate Youth Pastor for two years. Though born in WV, he considers himself a native of Cincinnati, Ohio (Clermont County) having grown up there. Rust is the proud husband of Heather and doting father of two grown children (Rose and Jenna) and uncle to one nephew he adores, Miles. He has a passion for theology, history, professional wrestling, music, movies and reading. Rust sees his spiritual gifts—serving, teaching, and leadership as themes throughout his varied career. He holds a B.A. from Marshall University and a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Liberty University Online.

## YOUTH MINISTRY AT GRACE

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As the new Director of Youth Ministry, I wanted to let everyone know what my goals and plans are for our youth ministry here at Grace. My goal is to create and grow a vibrant, welcoming space where our youth can create lasting friendships, be spiritually fed and be of service to others. I believe that every young person has unique gifts and talents they can bring to our church community.

The Youth program will focus on three key ideas: faith and discipleship formation, community building and outreach. We'll do this through engaging and thought (and discussion!) provoking study of Scripture as well as the works of other Christian authors, worship nights and service projects, all with the aim of deepening our youth's faith and understanding of God and His love. I also have some fun activities in mind such as concerts, game nights, lyrical analysis, mission trips and much more.

I want to empower our youth to make a positive impact well beyond the walls of this church. There are always opportunities to serve locally or in the world and live out their faith in action. And in doing so, they are helping to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I look forward to partnering with parents, volunteers, and the congregation to create and nurture a supportive environment where the youth can thrive. Together, we can inspire the next generation to grow in hope, in faith and in love.

# CAREPORTAL- CLARK COUNTY IMPACT REPORT

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CarePortal is connecting technology that drives action for local children and families in Crisis and Grace has been helping meet these needs for almost three years now. Every CarePortal connection is more than just meeting a need though—it's a chance to share God's love. Sometimes that means bringing an extra meal or bag of groceries, offering a prayer, or simply letting a family know they are not alone. Families are deeply grateful to know someone cares.

Since CarePortal launched in Clark County in February 2022, **29 churches** and **five school districts** (Springfield City Schools, Northeastern Local Schools, and Northwestern Local Schools, Emmanuel Christian Academy, and Greenon Local Schools) have joined together to serve our community. Through these efforts, **1,303 children and 645 adults** have been helped, creating an estimated **economic impact of \$296,885**.

Grace Lutheran Church specifically has served 99 children in the last 12 months and 204 children since we joined in February of 2023. Would you like to be part of this powerful way to make a difference? Please see Sandy Thompson for more details.

## THANK YOU LETTER

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**Dear Congregation, Council, and Staff,**

My family and I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the prayers, love, and beautiful cards you shared with us after the passing of my sister, Cindy. Your kindness has been such a comfort during this hard time. I am also so grateful for the understanding and support you gave me in allowing me to step away at a moment's notice. Your care and compassion truly show the love of Christ, and we feel so blessed to be part of this church family.

The Kalifoot, Laux and Pettit families.



# AUCTION ITEMS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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The annual Grace Lutheran Charity Auction on Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 9:00 AM to Noon is fast approaching! Your auction items and your volunteer time are needed to make this year's auction equal to the success of past years!

As in past years, your donation of items and time are vital to making the Auction the success it has always been. Your gifts of arts and crafts such as paintings, woodworking, quilting, sewing, stained glass or other unique items will make the event a success.

Emerge Recovery & Trade Initiative in Xenia is our mission partner this year. Emerge is a faith-based mission that empowers youth who are about to age out of foster care to develop vocational skills for their future. In addition, Emerge helps those in addiction recovery 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. See their website at: [emergecoverytrade.com](http://emergecoverytrade.com)

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!

## FALL FEST 2025

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Fall Fest will be on October 5 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Bring a crock pot of chili to enter the Chili Cook Off. Brats, Hot Dogs and a Nacho Bar will round out the menu.

Live music and games for all ages will be offered. Invite your friends and family to this community event.



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

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We are excited to begin our outreach this fall for Operation Christmas Child! This is a world-wide effort to provide shoebox gifts for children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Fill a shoebox with quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items. A list of recommended gift items will be in your box. You can fill a box for a boy or a girl, ages 2-4, 5-9, 10-14. The Hope Guild at Grace will have shoeboxes available for you to pick up at church on Oct. 5. They will be due back by Nov. 17. A donation of \$10 for each box is requested from the organization to cover costs for evangelism materials, shipping, and processing. This can be sent by mail or online. We thank you greatly for your generous support of this important effort!

## YOUNG AT HEART

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Fall is fast approaching. 16 of us saw the musical legally blonde and we will be seeing Scrooge the musical on November 1st. Buy season tickets and the shows are only \$40 a piece with the buffet lunch. We are exploring other opportunities of maybe the Renaissance down near Beaver Creek in October. We continue to see the sanctuary series at the Methodist Church on high Street. We hope to sing Christmas carols at a local nursing home and also visit Carillon Park near Christmas time. Come join us in Christian love and joy. Check the narthex for upcoming events.



# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

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Starting October 12 the Adult Sunday School class will work its way through a video series titled "Confident Parenting" by Jim Burns. The course is a wonderful way for parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles to engage in conversation about raising children in today's world. Regardless where you might be in the parenting spectrum, you will find this course to be meaningful. Older adults are especially encouraged to attend and serve as resources for those still in the parenting journey. This class runs through November 9 and will be facilitated by the Culture Crew team members. It will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Knowing that not everyone will choose to attend the parenting class, we are also offering a Life-to-Life group experience. This course will also be facilitated by members of the Culture Crew and will meet in the Community Center. Life-to-Life groups will gather around tables for Bible studies on the book of James.

## FAITH STORY: MAXINE SHROYER

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My faith has been tested many times over my life, beginning when I was younger. I was the oldest of six girls. My parents took my sisters and I to church. But when two of my younger sisters passed away, I did not realize the faith that my parents had as I did not understand it at the time. The realization came to me when my fourth child died shortly after birth. My faith was tested to the maximum then as I had to be strong for my three other children. My faith was again tested when my second son passed away unexpectedly after being ill for only 11 days. He was only 43 years old, leaving a wife and two young children. My world at this time was again shattered. Recently I was diagnosed with cancer for the second time, so my faith is still being tested over-and-over again. I am confident that with my family, prayers, and strong determination, my faith is stronger than ever, and with God's help, I'm determined to beat this disease again. It is my faith that has been seeing me through all these difficult times.

# JOY IN STEWARDSHIP?

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Why a question mark after this statement, JOY in Stewardship? Of course, there is JOY in stewardship. There are many ways to find JOY in stewardship. Just stop and think about it.

There is JOY through investing and sharing abundantly for the kingdom of God. Instead of keeping everything for yourself, God calls us to invest and share His gifts abundantly. His gifts the world surely needs.

There is JOY through worshiping with all your friends on Sunday morning in worship services and all the other opportunities through the week. Use your God given gifts (time, treasure, and talents) to bring JOY to all that are present.

There is JOY through service. Serve freely without expecting a pat-on-the-back. This is what God's word tells us in scripture. (Matthew 6:3-4)

There is JOY of knowing God's love. Remember the JOY you experienced for giving your child that gift on his/her birthday. What greater JOY our Heavenly Father has when we receive his greatest gift, His only Son. There is

## JOY in Stewardship!

Neal Blackburn

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