

# July MESSENGER



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

2026



## Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

Happy birthday America! As a nation we come together as one to celebrate the culmination of a radical idea; namely, that a group of people could govern themselves, without the oversight of a wise and all-knowing king. It was our “unalienable right” to do so, declared our founding fathers.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” (Declaration of Independence)

When Thomas Jefferson penned the word “happiness,” he referred to something far greater than the mere pleasure modern day people seek. For him, and for all great thinkers of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, happiness meant a life that flourished because it was lived with virtue, moral integrity, and active participation in civic life.

In the church we emphasize joy over happiness for many of the same reasons. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit – evidence that God is living and flourishing in you. Where happiness is dependent on the circumstances of life, joy is a constant, allowing us to be joyful even when life has hit a rough patch.

Given a choice, I encourage you to pursue joy, for in so doing, you pursue the godly traits that will ultimately result in your happiness. Enjoy the holiday!

# July Outreach Corner



**Laurel Mission Trip 2026** will be October 25<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>. During the month of July, we will be having a fundraiser to help support the work of the team who will be going this year. See the Narthex for more information but you will have an opportunity to donate towards the cost of supplies used in our work in Kentucky. If you “sponsor an item” you will have to opportunity to leave a message and sign a card for the family(s) we will be serving.

**We also would love to have you join us!** It is a great trip and a very worthy ministry. If you are interested in going or just have questions, reach out to Sandy Thompson at [sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org](mailto:sandy.thompson@grace-nalc.org) or call the church office at 937-399-6257.

## *St John's Food Pantry:*

August is one of our months to serve at St John's food pantry. Their current needs are:



ramen noodles, canned soup, and cereal. Please place donations in the shopping cart which will be in the Narthex during the month of July (back in Fellowship Hall in Aug) but no later than August 16<sup>th</sup>. See Judy Fredrich for more information and if you're interested in serving or helping, they could use more help too.

# Christmas in July

Ready to spread Christmas cheer?  
Christmas in July is finally here!

Bake some cookies, sweet and light,  
To share some love and warm delight.

For our homebound friends so dear,  
A little joy we're glad to share.

So grab your apron, join the fun—  
A batch of kindness for everyone!

We are excited to continue Christmas in July again this year! Christmas in July is a special ministry for our Grace family members who are homebound, and we need your help to make it happen. You can volunteer to bake, deliver, or do both! Typically, we ask our bakers to prepare 3 dozen cookies, and our delivery drivers to visit 2–3 members. There will be a sign-up sheet at Sign-Up Central where you can indicate whether you would like to bake or deliver.

This year, our Christmas in July weekend is July 24–26! If you're a baker, you may drop off your cookies at the church anytime during the week before Thursday, July 23, at 5:00 p.m. If you signed up to deliver, please pick up your cookies between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 24. I will have the cookies prepared, along with a list of those you will be delivering to. You may deliver anytime that weekend!

I would like to thank all of our past and future volunteers. Our homebound members truly appreciate this meaningful ministry and look forward to it each year. If you have questions regarding Christmas in July, please call, text, or email Grace Reed at 843-271-7787 or [graceandjason@me.com](mailto:graceandjason@me.com).

*Congratulations*  
*to*  
*Eloise Mckinnon*  
on completing her  
First Communion  
on Sunday, June  
21st.



# One- Combined Worship Service and Fellowship Day

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 30, 2026, as Grace comes together for **one combined worship service at 10:00 a.m.**, with Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. (45 minutes). There will be no fellowship time between Sunday School and worship.

Pastor Tom's message, "One," will be based on Romans 12:1–8, focusing on verse 5: “In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”



A picnic-style potluck will follow worship at approximately 11:30 a.m. The church will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and buns; please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Following the meal, we will enjoy a hymn and praise song sing-along celebrating the music that has shaped our faith journeys. To submit a favorite hymn or praise song, use the wooden box in the Narthex during July or email Bev Kaech ([bev.kaech@grace-nalc.org](mailto:bev.kaech@grace-nalc.org)) or Joe Stahl ([joe.stahl@grace-nalc.org](mailto:joe.stahl@grace-nalc.org)). We will do our best to include as many requests as possible.

Volunteers are also needed to help with potluck setup and cleanup.

This special day grew out of the congregational survey conducted in April and reflects our desire to strengthen fellowship and unity throughout the Grace church family. We look forward to worshipping, sharing a meal, and singing together as ONE

# Summer Jams



Hey Grace Youth- don't forget to sign up for our FREE Summer Jams program on Monday nights from 6-8pm. We are starting on Monday, June 29th and will run through mid August when schools begin to start back up.

Joseph Stahl (praise team guitarist) and I will be teaching guitar (beginning to pro pending on skill level), piano, and ukulele for FREE (lessons typically run \$25/hr but ours are FREE)!

Our time slots are a 1/2hr-1hr pending on availability: so you can sign up for 6-6:30pm, 6-7pm, 6:30-7pm, 6:30-7:30pm, 7-7:30pm, 7:30-8pm, or 7-8pm.

Anywho, we have a few time slots left in between the hours of 6-8pm so please hurry and sign up and take advantage of this incredible and FREE opportunity to learn an instrument.

If you want to sign up please contact me as soon as you can at this number- Have a Blessed day!

# Young at Heart



Young at heart enjoyed "Wedding Singer "musical st La Comedia dinner theater. We also enjoyed "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory " musical this past week. We will be going to activities at the ball field and at veterans Park and some other local sites. Come join us for fun time at the Springfield halftrax baseball game. Check the nathex for future events.

Roger and Sonya

You're Invited to The  
**Lutheran Family Reunion**

**LUTHERANS IN THE  
LAND OF LIBERTY**

Join us for a day of worship, fellowship, and celebrating our Lutheran heritage together with the NALC churches of the Southwest Ohio Mission District! Lunch provided.

**Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**

**10am - 2pm**

Hosted at Grace Lutheran Church  
111 Lutheran Drive, Eaton, OH, 45320

**Presentation for Adults:** "Lutherans in the Land of Liberty" Glimpses of our American Journey so Far...

**Activities for Kids:** Songs & Activities for all ages!



Register with QR code  
or mail in form by August 1!



# July 2026

## Wednesday, July 1

## Thursday, July 2

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

## Friday, July 3

### OFFICE CLOSED

8:00 pm Community Group

## Saturday, July 4

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Sunday, July 5

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

## Monday, July 6

6-8 pm Summer Jams

## Tuesday, July 7

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

## Wednesday, July 8

10:00 am Hope Guild

## Thursday, July 9

8:00 am Miss Inc.  
11:00 am Adult Bible Study  
1:00 pm Quilters

## Friday, July 10

8:00 pm Community Group

## Saturday, July 11

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Sunday, July 12

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

## Monday, July 13

Prayer Canopy  
6-8 pm Summer Jams

## Tuesday, July 14

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am Staff Meeting  
1:30 pm Joy Guild  
6:00 pm Exec.Comm

## Wednesday, July 15

6:00 pm Bells  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

## Thursday, July 16

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

## Friday, July 17

8:00 pm Community Group

## Saturday, July 18

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Sunday, July 19

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

## Monday, July 20

5:30 pm Prayer Support Team  
6-8 pm Summer Jams

## Tuesday, July 21

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

## Wednesday, July 22

## Thursday, July 23

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

## Friday, June 24

Kit Jeff St. Garden Grilling Prep  
8:00 pm Community Group

## Saturday, July 25

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

## Sunday, July 26

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

## Monday, July 27

6-8 pm Summer Jams

## Tuesday, July 28

8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
11:30 am Staff Meeting

## Wednesday, July 29

## Thursday, July 30

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

## Friday, July 31

8:00 pm Community Group

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

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



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