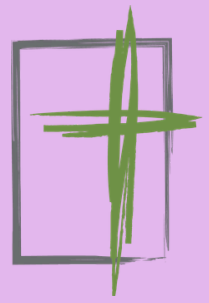


August MESSENGER



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

2026



Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

As I write these words, my Indiana grandchildren are showing their 4H projects at the Johnson County fair. By the time you will read these words, those same kids will have started school. (They live in a district that uses a year-round model.) Our Springfield city students will be only a couple of weeks behind them.

As I write these words, the temperatures outside are sweltering, and my thoughts are on finding someplace cool to be. By the time you read them, I will have started the planning for this year's Advent and Christmas season, and I will be thinking about Christmas carols and cookies.

Time flies, they say. And as we enter August, we may well be feeling like this year is flying by. It's too early to be talking about school years and Christmas songs!

This week a Bible study I am in will focus on Ecclesiastes 3. Those are the words made famous by the American folk rock band "The Byrds:" "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." That passage ends with this line: "God has placed eternity in the human heart" (v. 11).

Yes, time flies, but eternity looms. As the calendar pages slip away, what are you doing to invest in that which is eternal? How is God reflected in your life? It's not too late to re-focus!

August Outreach Corner

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, Play-Doh, sidewalk chalk, headphones (not earbuds) with a C-jack/connector, and wide-ruled spiral notebooks, but please see the full list available in the narthex. Return items by August 30th. See Sandy Thompson for more information.



Fun Updates

We are excited to share some wonderful news from a few of the ministries we partner with!

WittCo had a fantastic year, with increased participation from Wittenberg University students in their Bible study groups. Even more exciting, lives are being transformed as students continue to come to Christ through this ministry. WittCo was also blessed to add an additional part-time staff member to help support and disciple the women involved in the program. Be sure to enjoy the photo of one of the students celebrating their faith through baptism.



Younglife had an incredible summer camp season. They shared photos from camp along with several heartfelt thank-you notes expressing their gratitude for the support that helped make these life-changing experiences possible. Young Life was one of the recipients of our 2025 Endowment Funds, and we are thankful to be a part of what God is doing through their ministry. Enjoy the group photo and a sample thank-you note from one of the students. The full flyer will also be displayed on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Dear friend,

Thank you so much for your donation you made it possible for me to come and have the best week of my life. I made so many new friends and got a lot of my chest. I truly could stay here forever, I know you don't know me but you helped change my life I'm forever grateful for you!

Love,
Ja'Lynee (Springfield High)

THANK YOU ♥

One- Worship Service

On Sunday, August 30 the two Grace worship services will combine for ONE service as a way of enjoying enhancing our ONEness in Jesus Christ. You have worshiped together in the same sanctuary every week. Now truly worship together in the same service!

Our ONE service will begin at 10 a.m. We will hold Sunday School at 9 a.m. that same day. Following our ONE service, we will gather in the Community Center for a summer cookout. The church will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. You bring the rest! During lunch we will unite our voices in an “Old Fashioned Hymn Sing.”

Use the sign-up options online, on the app and in the narthex to let us know you are coming and what you plan to bring for the meal.

We will need a crew to coordinate set up for the meal and one to coordinate cleanup. We are currently recruiting for each of these teams. This combined service flows out of the congregational survey conducted in April and addresses the desire to improve fellowship and familiarity among the entire Grace church family.



Upcoming Adult Sunday Series on “The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry”

As summer vacations end and school starts back up, it seems timely to discuss the implications of a busy life on our relationship with Jesus. Starting August 23 in adult Sunday School, we will study the example Jesus sets of an unhurried life, using a Right Now Media video series title “The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry”.

The Right Now Media video description states: “Join pastor and author John Mark Comer in this five-part series as he addresses one of the greatest threats to our spiritual lives:hurry. Instead of allowing our calendars and screens to control our lives, Jesus offers us a new rhythm of life, overflowing with grace, peace, and beauty.”

There are no assigned readings for this Sunday School series, but for anyone interested, there is a book of the same title by John Mark Comer.

Caring for the Parish

Sandy Thompson has served as the Executive Director at Grace since January 2025. Her position was created in the absence of an Associate Pastor to assist Senior Pastor Tom Brodbeck in the leadership of our congregation. She has mostly focused on administrative details (like staff management) and outreach. During most of that time Sandy has also been pursuing her calling to become a deacon in our denomination.

Deacons are an office first designated in the early church (see Acts 6-7). They were created to allow the Apostles more time to focus on the primary tasks of Word and Prayer. While the NALC has not yet fully developed its vision for deacons, the end result will essentially fulfill the same purpose as the New Testament church.

So as a part of our congregational commitment to develop leaders for our church and denomination, and in order to better use her gifts and calling, Sandy will now add an element of parish care to her current duties. Beginning this month, she will bear primary responsibility for ministering to the homebound component of our congregation, while Pastor Tom will focus more on the immediate and critical care components. Both of them will remain available to the entire congregation.

Nominating Committee Update

A Message from your 2026 Nominating Committee

The Grace 2026 Nomination Committee would like to invite members, who have been active for a period of at least one year, to nominate potential candidates to serve on Grace Council beginning in 2027 and serving for 3 years. Please be sure to obtain prior approval from the person being nominated and then forward your nomination in writing to one of the Nominating Committee members by September 30, 2026. This year's Nominating Committee consist of: Angie Caudill (angiecaudill2@gmail.com), Leslie McKinney (leslie.mckinney@grace-nalc.org), Jim Leonard (leonardjimmel@gmail.com), and Steve Garrett (spg5814garrett@gmail.com). Please feel free to contact one of us with any questions you may have.

Christian Stewardship: Faithful Care of God's Gifts

Christian stewardship begins with a simple but life-shaping truth: everything belongs to God. Scripture teaches that “the earth is the Lord’s,” which means our possessions, abilities, time, relationships, and even creation itself are gifts entrusted to our care. A steward is not the owner, but a faithful manager who uses what has been given according to the will of the One who gives it.

Christian stewardship is about more than money. It includes how we spend our days, develop our talents, care for our families, serve our neighbors, and participate in the life of the church. When we give generously, work honestly, conserve wisely, and serve humbly, we acknowledge that God has trusted us with resources meant to bless others and glorify Him. Stewardship turns ordinary choices into acts of worship.

The parable of the talents (Mt 25 14-30) reminds us that it is faithfulness that matters. The servants were not judged by giving the same amount, but by how they used what they had received. Likewise, Christian stewardship asks us to live responsibly and gratefully, whether we have much or little. It calls us to generosity and contentment instead of greed, and purpose instead of waste. In every season, faithful stewardship becomes a witness that our lives are not our own but belong to Christ.

The late Dr. T.A. Kantonen of the Hamma School of Theology at Wittenberg wrote, “**Stewardship is the reenactment of Christ’s life in our daily lives.**”

Lutheran Family Reunion

On Saturday, August 8, 2026, the Southwest Ohio Mission District (of which our congregation is a member) invites all the pastors and churches of our district to our biennial **Lutheran Family Reunion**.

This is a one-day, biennial event, scheduled just before the start of the school year. It includes worship, fellowship, good food, interesting presentations, and great conversations. There is no business to transact; just a reunion around Word, Sacrament, our shared history and future, and a great meal. We're grateful to Pastor Dwight Hanson and the people of Grace Lutheran Church in Eaton for hosting us!

Check the poster in the narthex for additional information.

Make a Will: A Simple Step Toward Peace of Mind

According to Caring.com's 2025 survey, only 24% of U.S. adults have a will! Despite broad awareness of its importance, most people still delay estate planning. August is **National Make a Will Month**, a timely reminder to put wishes to paper and care for the people and causes you love. A will is a practical document for adults of all ages and stages, helping clarify who should receive property, who should manage your estate, and, when needed, who should care for minor children or dependents.

Without a will, state law may determine what happens to your belongings, and that process can create confusion, delay, or conflict for your family members. A clear will can reduce uncertainty during a difficult time and make sure personal values are reflected in final decisions. It can also provide a meaningful opportunity to include charitable gifts, ensuring that ministries, schools, churches, and favorite community organizations are supported.

Begin by listing assets, noting important accounts, choosing a trusted executor, and thinking carefully about guardianship, beneficiaries, and special gifts. People with complex family, financial, or legal situations should seek professional guidance, but everyone can take the first step by having a conversation and gathering information. Making a will is ultimately about good stewardship: planning thoughtfully, protecting loved ones, and leaving a Christian legacy of care, clarity, and purpose.

The Grace Stewardship Committee encourages you to take this important step and hopes your will might include the church.

Thrivent Dollars

Do you have a policy with Thrivent? For several years we have been reminding you that certain Thrivent policies qualify for Thrivent dollars, encouraging you to select Grace as the recipient of those funds. But now Thrivent is updating its program so that ALL Thrivent policies (not just a select segment) qualify – all 1.9 million of them.

Grace applies those funds to our “FaithWorks” fund. FaithWorks is a grant available to any Grace member facing a financial hardship. Qualifying needs can merit a \$750 grant every 12 months. Those interested in learning more should speak with Pastor Tom.

If you are a Thrivent member, please consider designating Grace as your Choice Dollar recipient.

Help Shape the Future of Grace's Campus

Imagine walking trails for prayer and reflection, an inclusive playground where every child can play, outdoor worship spaces, gardens, and places to gather in fellowship—all right here on Grace's campus.

Since moving to our current location in 1999, God has blessed Grace through each stage of growth. Following the completion of our worship facility and later the Youth Wing and Community Center, Church Council believes the time is right to begin **Phase III** - “Growing Grace Outdoors,” developing our 20+ acres of outdoor property to serve both our congregation and the greater Springfield community.

A Backyard Committee was formed in late 2025 to begin dreaming and planning for this exciting next chapter. After meeting regularly over the past several months, the committee has identified several possibilities, including:

- Walking paths
- An ADA-accessible playground
- A chapel or shelter house with restrooms
- Sports and recreation areas
- Reimagined garden spaces

The vision also includes prayer spaces, benches, shaded gathering areas, and Bible-inspired learning opportunities woven throughout the property. Development will take place in phases as funding becomes available.

Now It's Your Turn

Before we take the next steps in proceeding with a landscape architect, we'd love to hear your ideas, hopes, and dreams for this property. How can these outdoor spaces best serve our church family, our neighbors, and future generations?

Please share your thoughts by sending an email to: Grace.Lutheran@grace-nalc.org by Friday, August 14.

Thank you,

The Backyard Committee

Kim Bachman, Jeff Butterfield, Terry Fredrich, Ruthann Hill, Suzanne Klopfenstein, Grace Reed, Robert Thompson, Pastor Tom Brodbeck

Give Your Mind a Makeover with The Upcoming Fall WOG Bible Study

Hey ladies! What does your inner voice say to you? It is time to replace negative self-talk with God's truth! Join the Women of Grace this fall for

Me, Myself, and Lies: A Thought Closet Makeover by Jennifer Rothschild. Together, under the skillful leadership of Nora Charney, we will learn how to clean out destructive self-talk & fill our minds with biblical truth. Nora will guide our discussions as we watch inspiring videos & clear out destructive thoughts together.

- **Format:** Inspiring video teaching by Jennifer Rothschild followed by group discussion
- **When:** Monday nights at 6:30 PM

(Note: **come extra early on first night, Sept 14 at 6:15 pm** because we will start distributing books & collecting \$16 for each book. You will need your book to fill out the listening guide during our first session on Sept. 14.)

- **Where:** Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
- **Dates:** Sept.14 - Oct. 26

(Note: We want everyone to be able to participate! If the cost of the book is a barrier, please let Donna Stelzer know confidentially.)

We would very much like to start on time & end of time.

Register on the Grace App now so we will have a book ready for you on Sept. 14! We will have paper registration in the Narthex on Sun. August 30 & Sept. 6 but those are both busy Sundays so we recommend using the App.

Questions?? Please contact Donna Stelzer at dmstelzer@gmail.com



Affirmation of Baptism

CONGRATULATIONS



Evan Quesenberry

Amanda Peterson

Affirmation of
Baptism

May 31, 2026

Young at Heart



We enjoyed "Charlie and the chocolate factory" and on the 21st of August we are going to go see the musical "Come From Away."

Also some of us are beginning to walk on Monday and Thursday mornings at 8 A.M. at the Buck Creek reservoir.

We also will be enjoying the music on August Friday on the museum lawn. Come out and enjoy the Christian Fellowship and love.



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