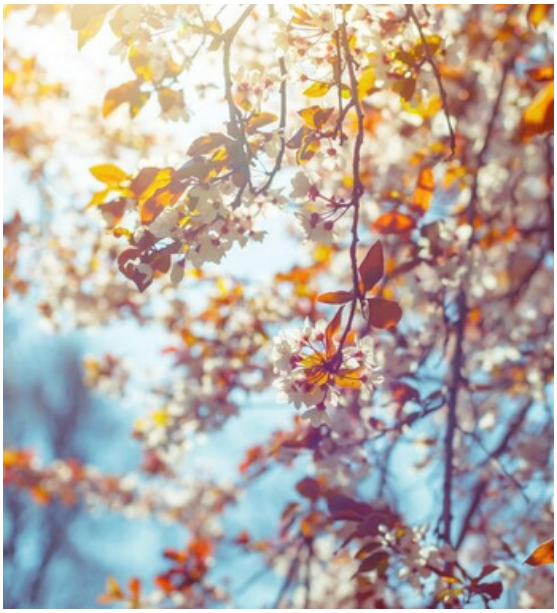
November MESSENGER

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor's Reflection



I write these words just minutes following my wrap-up session with our Church Doctor consultants. These past three days have been a good and productive time of reflecting on our church, its mission and vision and the various ministries in which we engage. Thank you to all of you who participated in the interviews and/or the survey. The consultant tells me she has gained a lot of great information that will now get process and formulated into a series of recommendations.

Please be reminded that the consultant's report will be delivered to us as a congregation on Tuesday, December 1 at 6 pm. We will hold that meeting in the Grace sanctuary. Everyone is encouraged to attend. We know December can be a busy time, but this is a very important moment for your church. Please don't underestimate the importance of your presence.

My time with the consultant these past days reminded me of one of the great promises of Scripture, as recorded in Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

God has great plans for this congregation. We look forward to hearing about them from the fresh eyes, ears and thoughts of Church Doctor Ministries. Exciting times ahead!

November Outreach Corner

Snow-vember Coat Drive:



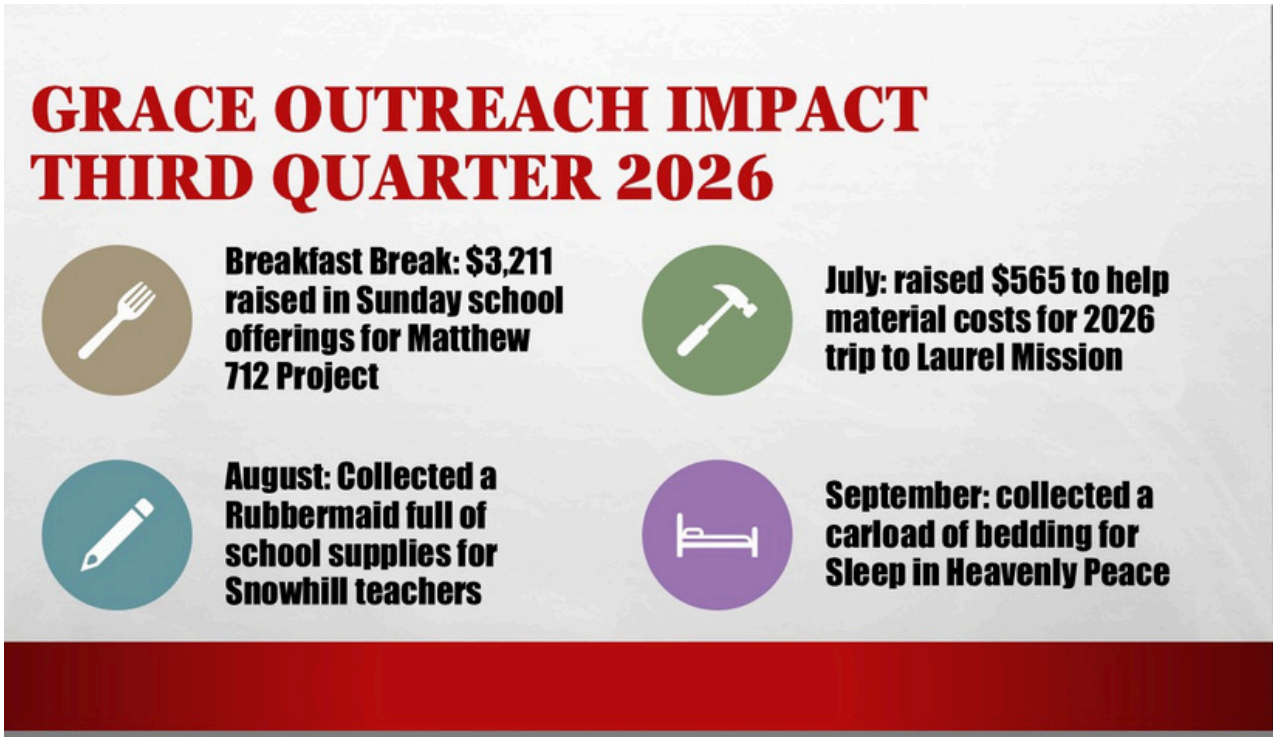
It's that time of year, for our annual coat drive for Snowhill School. We will be collecting new or like new winter coats for our friends at Snowhill School. Please watch for coat shaped tags in the Narthex in early November. Each tag is for a specific child. **PLEASE keep the tag with the coat donated.**All donations are due back by November 15th. If you'd like to help but prefer not to do the shopping, see Sandy Thompson for options to donate and have someone else do the shopping for you.

Baskets of Grace:

Reminder, food items are due back by 11/15/26 for the food boxes for needy families in our community for Thanksgiving.



OUTREACH IMPACT



Grace Auction

Save the Date! Grace Lutheran Charity Auction – December 5





Mark your calendar for the **26th Annual Grace Lutheran Charity Auction** on Saturday, December 5, from 9 AM to Noon! Come enjoy a morning of bidding while supporting a wonderful local cause. This year's proceeds will benefit **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**, an organization that provides beds for children who don't have a bed of their own. Together, we can share Christ's love in a practical way and help children sleep comfortably and safely.

Have a handmade treasure to share? We welcome donations of handmade arts and crafts from our congregation. Please submit items by **November 27**, along with a brief description and fair market value to establish the starting bid.

Want to be part of the fun? We need volunteers to help set up Friday, December 4, and assist with registration, displaying items, and checkout on Saturday morning.

Whether you donate, volunteer, or join us to bid, you can help make a difference! For more information or to get involved, contact Chris Norman at 937-399-6257 or chris.norman@grace-nalc.org.





Worship Opportunities in November

Pastor/theologian John Piper has remarked: "True worship is a joyful response to the greatness of God." The month of November holds many opportunities for you to express your joyful response.

We begin on the first day of the month with All Saints' Day, a time of remembrance and celebration. Both services that day will honor those baptized in the previous 12 months and those who have passed forward into eternity. This year we will be joined in this service by Maddie Benson, the Director of Development for the North American Lutheran Church. She comes to thank our congregation for its generosity and vision.

On November 22 we joyfully celebrate the end of the Church Calendar year and the victory that is ours on Christ the King Sunday.

Two days later, on November 24 we return at 7 p.m. for our annual Thanksgiving service. A joyful response always includes a stop in our business to give God thanks. You will have opportunity individually do that during this service.

And then the month concludes with the start of the season of Advent on November 29. More on that season will follow in next month's Messenger.

Fall Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, November 22, Grace will hold its annual fall business meeting. That meeting will begin at 9:15 a.m. and be held in the Grace Sanctuary. All members of the church are strongly encouraged to attend. Non-members are enthusiastically invited to attend as well.

Two major items are standards on the agenda of this meeting: Adoption of the 2027 budget and the election of members for the church council and endowment committee. This year we also have a couple of proposed amendments to the Grace constitution. All of this information can be found on the Members page of the Grace website (www.grace-nalc.org).

In addition to those items, you will hear updates on a number of ministries, a recap of the current financial status and have a time for questions and answers. Come and see what the Lord is doing at Grace!

Operation Christmas Child

📦 **Shoeboxes are due back to Grace Lutheran Church by Sunday, November 15th!**
There's still time to participate! Pick up a shoebox in the narthex, fill a shoebox with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and other small treasures that will bless a child.Pick up a shoebox in the narthex.

Short on time? You can still make a difference! Shoeboxes can be packed and purchased online through Operation Christmas Child, and they will fill the box for you! It's an easy and meaningful way to participate, even if you can't shop or pack a box yourself.



Thank You Note

To my church family,

I am now six weeks past heart surgery. Although it is a long and slow process, I have made good progress recovering.

I appreciated all your support: meals, cards, prayers and phone calls. I felt God's love reflected by you to me.

Thank you, my friends,
Lora Lawson

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