October MESSENGER

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

2026

Pastor's Reflection

Tom Brodbeck

By the time you read these words, you will have already completed the initial survey offered by the consultant we have engaged, Church Doctor Ministries. Thank you for your participation in that part of the process.

Several people have asked: "Why are we doing this?" Here's the answer. For the first time since 1987, Grace will be undergoing a senior pastor transition that will bring into this congregation someone new and unfamiliar with this church's history and vision. It is important that we begin now to prepare and plan for a smooth transition, one that has a clear path forward. The incoming pastor will want to know that, and that knowledge will help shape our own call committee as they search for that individual.

Bottom line? This is a very important time for us. What happens through the end of this year will shape our future for the next 20 years or more.

Later this month our consultants will be here at Grace for three full days. They will seek to learn everything they can about who we are, what we do, why we do it. They will peek in every closet and investigate the perception our community has of us. They will interview me, the staff and a cross section of the congregation. If you want to be included in those interviews, you should contact Janet Rice, our church's coordinator for this process.

We will receive the final report from the consultants, along with their observations and recommendations in a congregational gathering on Tuesday, December 1 from 6-8 pm. Every person who considers Grace to be their church home should plan to attend this meeting.

If you want to know more about our consultants, you can visit their website at:

www.churchdoctorministries.com.

Thanks for participating.

October Outreach Corner

Join us for our next Breakfast Break: Sunday, October 4, at 9:15 a.m.

Come and hear about an exciting new partnership in Clark County! **CarePortal** is partnering with **Springfield City Youth Mission (SCYM)** to help provide much-needed mentors for local youth.

Tami Carter from CarePortal and Heather Bielawski from SCYM will be here to tell us more about this fantastic opportunity to come alongside young people in our community who could really use some encouragement, support, and a caring adult in their corner.

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 by November 15th. See Judy Fredrich for more information and if you're interested in serving or helping, they could use more help.

Baskets of Grace:

Our team will be collecting food items to prepare boxes and deliver these food boxes to needy families in our community for Thanksgiving. Please watch the Narthex for cards labeled with food items needed to fill the boxes/baskets and return these items by November 15th. Please only bring items identified on the cards. Please Contact Sally or Larry Cisler with any questions.

October Outreach Corner (cont).

Laurel Mission Trip

This year our team will be going to Laurel Mission the week of October 25-31.

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 10/25/26 at 9am, they will be leaving with us at that time!

The Grace "Potluck Grill Out" was a huge success!

On August 30th more than 180 people came together in fellowship to enjoy shared dishes, side dishes, and hot off the grill tasty hamburgers and hot dogs.

Entertainment was offered by the Grace Youth Praise Team musical ensemble who have been learning to play musical instruments and practicing songs this past summer. Also popular hymns were put together and led by Barb Blackburn which everyone enjoyed to sing along to, this brought back many memories of singing them in services past.

There was plenty of desserts, from apple pie, assorted cakes, to specialty cookies , and brownies to enjoy.

For those that could not attend, all present had a wonderful time visiting and giving thanks to our God and look forward to the next "Potluck" event.

Young at Heart

The **Young at Heart** group has been having a wonderful time enjoying fellowship, laughter, and some great entertainment! Last month, we headed to La Comedia Dinner Theatre to see *Come From Away* and *Something Rotten*! What a fun way to spend time together!

We're already looking forward to our next outing on **November 13**, when we'll enjoy *Santa Claus: The Musical and The Gift of Christmas*. It's sure to be a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season!

We'll also have opportunities this season to enjoy the musical talents of a variety of performers through the **United Methodist Sanctuary Series** and the **Covenant Presbyterian Concert Series.**

Whether you're a longtime member of Young at Heart or would like to join us for the first time, **come along and enjoy the fun!** These outings are a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, reconnect with old friends, and share Christian fellowship and love as we celebrate the holiday season together.

We'd love to have you join us! We hope to see you there!
Roger Bentz and Sonya Ryhal-Kincaid

Adult Sunday School

Grace will be offering two fascinating Sunday School option for you during the months of October and November.

Joe and Jenn Stahl will facilitate a small group experience titled "Poets and Saints." This seven-week series will study the spiritual lives of Christians such as Saint Francis of Assisi and George MacDonald, and features photography, video and artwork reflective of their lives and experiences. During the week, we will use a Participant's Guide of short, daily contemplative exercises. In our Sunday group meeting we will watch a video made by the band All Sons and Daughters (writers of Great Are You Lord) that explores the week's focused Poet/Saint in more depth. These experiences will be our springboard for group reflection and discussion as we are inspired by the lives of great people of faith who have gone before us. This class will meet in the parlor.

The Fellowship Hall will be the site for in-depth study of the books of 1 & 2 Thessalonians. 1 and 2 Thessalonians are letters from Paul, Silas, and Timothy to the early church in Thessalonica, encouraging faith, perseverance, and hope in Christ, especially regarding the return of Jesus. Pastor Brodbeck will facilitate this class.

To adequately prepare, we are asking you to let us know which class you will attend. See the sign up sheet in the narthex.

Meal Packing Event

Grace has an opportunity to partner with Living Water Lutheran Church and put our faith into action by helping pack meals for children and families facing food insecurity in Haiti.

On **Saturday, November 7, from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.,** churches, families, schools, organizations, and individuals from our community will gather at **Bellbrook Middle School** to pack **100,000 meals for Haiti.** This family-friendly, hands-on event is a wonderful way to serve others together and make a tangible difference.

The meals will be distributed in Haiti through three mission partn **Lifeline Christian Mission, Zeal Mission Society, and SMI Ministries.** Their local presence helps ensure the meals reach communities in need.

The goal is to raise **$60,000** to purchase the meal ingredients and transport the food to the three mission sites. Every gift makes a difference:

- **$10 provides 33 meals**
- **$72 provides 216 meals (one box)**
- **$330 provides 1,000 meals**

Giving is completely optional and is not required to participate in the meal-packing event. Your time and willingness to serve are gifts in themselves!

Event Details:
📅 Saturday, November 7, 2026
⏰ 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
📍 Bellbrook Middle School, 3600 Feedwire Rd., Bellbrook, OH 45305

Registration is required to reserve your spot. If you feel called to help, consider gathering your family, Sunday School class, small group, or friends and joining us!

Every dollar matters. Every meal matters. Every child matters. Together, we can help bring nourishment and hope to families in Haiti.

DONATE

DONATE LINK: https://lifeline.org/campaign/187526/meals-for-Haiti

REGISTER

REGISTER LINK: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4Jfm_gP7u2SOGQifFwICohnqbri-pzoAv151VoRLLWzxmuQ/viewform

Thank You Note

Dear Grace Family,

Thank you so much for all the cards and prayers during my hip surgery and recovery. Your support has meant a lot to me.

Blessings,
Catherine Zernechel

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

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