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August 2019

# Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church

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## From the Pastor's Desk. . .

- *Do you have a family member or friend who doesn't seem to believe in God?!?*  
(someone who doesn't have faith or doesn't seem to care if God even exists...)
- *Would you like that person to have faith in Jesus?!?*  
(considering the reality of the eternity of Hell, the resurrection victory available in Jesus, and the peace and joy of living in Christ every day...)
- *Would you feel comfortable talking to that person about God, faith, or your faith?!?*  
(wait...gulp!!...you mean like in "real life"!? No way...)

If you answered "YES!" to the first two questions and "NO!" to the third, have I got a deal for you!!! How would you like a module/class that offered to help teach you about how to have spiritual conversations with others?! And we're not just talking "book knowledge" here – we're talking experiential stuff that actually allows you to have a game plan and comfort level with talking to other people you already know about Jesus – and all in a non-pressure, non-"let's make everyone at the table uncomfortable" sort of way. Sounds pretty amazing huh?!?

Well, that's exactly what we have on tap here at Grace starting this fall. We're going to be offering a **Relational Evangelism Training Course** beginning the week after Labor Day. It will meet every other week for about an hour for 8 sessions. We will be reading and studying our way through "*God Space: Where Spiritual Conversations Happen Naturally*" by Doug Pollock. It's a pretty light read – a paperback book less than 130 pages long. FREE copies are available for anyone who signs up for the course.

*Want to learn a little more....?* Take a quick look at a copy of the book in the narthex. *What day and time is this course going to meet...?* Well, I'm glad you asked! Next to the book in the narthex is going to be a small stack of papers with some options for days and times to meet. If you're interested in taking part in all this, just put your name on one of the papers, circle the times that work best for you, and then put it in the basket nearby. (Or you could just email me.)

The bottom line is God have given US a faith in Jesus Christ, and through His Spirit He is working in us and through us to share that Good News about Jesus Christ with others. This course is just one tangible way to help us all improve at it.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

### **July Official Pastoral Acts:**

8 sick/shut-in visits  
4 private communions  
6 circuit visitor activities  
6 leadership meetings  
3 family visitations  
6 pastoral care visits  
2 hospital visits

<b>Upcoming Sermon Texts</b>	
August 4	Luke 12:13-21
August 11	Luke 12:22-34
August 18	Luke 12:49-59
August 25	Luke 13:22-30
Sept. 1	Luke 14:1-14

Pastor's Sunday morning **Adult Bible Class** is taking a break for the summer. We will resume the Sunday after Labor Day.

It's that time again...to listen to some of your favorite music! During this month a **hymn request box** will be in the narthex. If you have a favorite hymn you haven't sung in church in a while, write it on a slip of paper and place it in the box – and Pastor will try and work it into a service over the next couple of months.

Pictures for the **2020 Church Directory** will be taken August 11<sup>th</sup> and September 29<sup>th</sup> following worship. If you don't have a good photo in our current directory, please stop by as the illustrious Jen Fehlan-Jones snaps the camera.

The church is in need of a volunteer to **edge** all the sidewalks. Talk to Dale Rider if you might be interested.

The old **piano** sitting in the Fellowship Hall is looking for a new home. Be careful not to damage the floor when moving. Talk to Dale Rider if interested.

### August Birthdays

Scott Scholl	8/01
Caitlyn Scholl	8/03
Marcia Metzger	8/03
Heidi Scholl	8/12
Pastor Josh	8/18
George Horning	8/22
Aaron Turnbull	8/29

### August Anniversaries

Mark & Karen Huston	8/11
Randy & Kathy Sklarek	8/29

\* If we accidentally forgot your birthday or anniversary, please tell Pastor and we'll add it to our list.

## *From the President*

This year we're trying something a little different. We will be holding the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Voter's meeting in August. The meeting will be held on August 25<sup>th</sup>. This will provide more time to get any matters looked into, researched, resolved or readied before the next meeting. In the past there is only the month of October between the meetings. We'll see how this goes and look for comments from the congregation.

As always, I encourage all to come to the Voter's meeting. Looking forward to seeing you there.

## *Evangelism News:*

The Mission of the Month for AUGUST is **Lutheran Campus Ministries**. This is the month that all the college kids head off to school...and here in Oberlin that means somewhere around 3,000 students (some of the Lutheran – many of them unchristian) come here to our town to live near us. How might we connect with them and the Gospel??? There's a fascinating article posted on the bulletin board in the hallways titled, "*Staying Connected to Christ in Times of Transition*" that talks about what one church in a college town does. For those of you receiving this by email, you can learn more about this by going to <https://engage.lcms.org/georgia-ministry-summer-2019/> and reading more.

On Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> there will be a **Circuit Convocation** at Ascension Lutheran Church in North Olmstead. All the Cleveland area congregations from our circuit will be there to discuss best practices and ideas for outreach events and activities. It goes from 9:30 am to noon. Talk to Pastor Josh if you'd be interested in attending with him.

## *Worship News*

You have probably noticed that we no longer are using the pre-printed **bulletin inserts** from CPH during worship. Instead the relevant information will be printed in the bulletins and the congregation will be encouraged to look up the Bible readings in the pew Bibles or their own personal Bibles they bring from home. It's been a bit of an adjustment so far, but hopefully a good chance for people to get comfortable using a Bible. And, as at least one person has mentioned, might encourage people to get into church a few minutes earlier than usual in order to bookmark the readings in the Bible.

There will be a short (5-10 minute) **Greeter Meeting** on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> following worship. If you are a greeter or are interested in becoming one, please attend.

## *Altar Guild News*

We are still looking to add a few new members to our team. If you are interested in serving on Altar Guild please contact Robin Turnbull.

Serving in August:

4 & 11 ~ Colleen Karp

18 & 25 ~ Carolyn Husted

*~Thank you for serving~* Robin

## *Lutheran Women's League News*

Coffee fellowship in August:

4	Jan Koepp
11	Karen Fridenstine
18	Norma Stechow
25	Robin Turnbull

Bob and Lori Izold will be serving the Free Community Hot Meal on July 20.

Diane Senyak and Dale Rider will be serving on Saturday, August 17.

Attention all ladies: There will be a GLC **Rummage Sale Planning Meeting** on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Everyone's help and input would be appreciated. The Rummage Sale is tentatively planned for September 6-7, which is the same weekend as the city-wide garage sales. Drop-off times for donated items will be during the first week of September.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Hope you are all having an enjoyable summer with some time to relax and get away. Want to give you a heads-up to the forthcoming Concordia at Sumner Annual Meeting for both member and non-member congregations on Sunday afternoon, September 22. This year we will emphasize mission opportunities: how to identify them, develop a plan of action, and fund them. Rev. Barry Keurulainen from the Board for Missions of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, and also pastor of St. Lukes in Cabot, Pa. will be the main presenter. He will talk about God's Mission, his own mission engagement, encourage us to talk about our own as we inspire one another, and then explain how Concordia Lutheran Ministries can possibly help fund these projects. If any of you are like me, sometimes it is tough to know what to do, what to think, how to plan, etc. We can help one another, and Concordia Lutheran Ministries can partner with us in making it happen.

What I encourage you to do is first of all, put it on your calendar for the Sunday, September 22 from 3 to 6 p.m. I ask you to send two to four lay people plus the pastor and his wife. The program consists of an opening devotion, a presentation on mission with discussion, followed by a nice supper. Each participant this year gets a bottle of wine, a kind of wine that expresses a major feature of our theology!

Feel free to email or call (330-592-7958) if you have any questions or concerns.

— Chaplain Charles Lentner

# August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 • Worship 10 am	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 • Worship 10 am • Greeter Meeting • Church Directory Photos taken	12 • Council's Meeting 7 pm	13	14 • Elder's Meeting 3:30 pm	15 • Rummage Sale Meeting 6 pm	16	17 • Free Hot Meal 5 pm
18 • Worship 10 am	19	20 • OCS Food Box Delivery 2 pm	21	22 • Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm • Women's Breakfast at Oberlin Kitchen 9:30 am	23	24 • Circuit Convocation 9:30 am - noon
25 • Worship 10 am • Voters' Meeting 11:40 am	26	27	28	29	30	31

### Upcoming Important Dates:

- Sept 1 – 5: Rummage Sale Drop off Days
- Sept. 6 & 7: Rummage Sale
- Sept. 29: Church Directory Photos