
AUGUST 2021

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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*“Grace Lutheran Church is a family united by faith in Christ,
which seeks to grow in that faith and to share it with others.”*

From the Pastor’s Desk . . .

The BIG news story for the last two years – that you are probably beyond sick of hearing about all the time – is the **COVID-19 pandemic**. *Are the numbers going up or down? What about the latest variant? How many people are getting the vaccine?*

The LATEST big news story is the **Olympics**. After a year’s delay, the summer Olympics are happening in Tokyo. What the Olympics have helped to do for many Americans (including myself) is to alert us that pandemic conditions are very different in other parts of the world. America was a leader in getting vaccines out and available to any and every American who wanted one. In other countries – like Japan or Mali, in west Africa – the situation is much worse. Thousands of people who desperately want the vaccine for their own safety and wellbeing are not able to get it. Those countries don’t have the available supplies. Some, like Mali, because citizens (and leaders) are more concerned with the basic needs of finding food and water.

What should be done?!? If I asked that question during a church Children’s Message, the kids would probably simply reply: **We should SHARE with them**. Yes, indeed – and there are reports that the U.S. Government is promising to do so.

But what about you and me? What can WE do?!? There will be a free-will door offering on Sunday, August 22nd that will go toward **Lutheran World Relief's** effort to provide COVID-19 vaccines and other essential supplies to needy people in places like Mali, Africa. You can read more about all this by going to their website at www.lwr.org.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

PS I'd love to get out of the office and **visit** with you in-person. So when you are comfortable and ready for a visit, please contact me and I'll be happy to come over.

July Official Pastoral Acts:

- 2 pastoral care visits
- 3 leadership meetings
- 2 shut-in visits
- 1 private communion
- 1 evangelism visit
- 1 circuit visitor activity

Upcoming Sermon Texts

August 1	Mark 12:28-34
August 8	John 6:35-51
August 15	Genesis 12:1-9
August 22	Genesis 13
August 29	Genesis 14
Sept. 1	Genesis 15

Pastor will be starting a new **midweek Bible study** on Tuesdays at 10 am, beginning on August 10th in the church classroom. It will cover the Foundations of Faith for the first several weeks, then move to other requested topics. For more information, please talk to Pastor. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Worship Information

Our church pandemic protocols put into place last month will continue this month.

Pastor offers **Private Communion** at church the first Wednesday of the month from 1:00-2:30 pm and 7:00-8:00 pm OR by private appointment. People can contact Pastor ahead of time to "reserve" a time, but "drop-ins" are also welcome. Contact Pastor if you'd prefer a home visit with private communion.

For the month of August there will be a **Hymn Request Box** in the narthex. If you've got a favorite hymn you'd like to sing in worship, just write it on the slip of paper and put it in the box. Then Pastor will try and include them in a worship service sometime soon.

We are in need of more volunteers to be **ushers, lay readers, and greeters**. If you might be willing to serve on Sunday morning in one of these ways, please contact Pastor.

On August 15th Pastor will begin a new sermon series called "**God's Grace and Goodness in the Life of Abraham.**"

Memorial Service

There will be a special worship service in loving memory of **Pat Fraunfelder** here at Grace on Sunday, August 15th at 1:30 pm with light refreshments to follow. Everyone is invited to attend as we remember and thank God for this long-time member and servant at Grace.

President's Message

So here we are: in the middle of summer. Hot enough for you?

Looking at the church's latest attendance figures, there's been a slight "uptick" in attendance at Grace since the coronavirus has somewhat abated. In 2020, we had 150 members of Grace who received Communion during June and July. In 2021, the total number for June and July was 163, an increase of about 9 per cent. We're getting there...slowly but surely.

There's still a long way to go, however, and while only 2-3 people at Grace wear a mask during the service, please don't get overconfident that the worst is behind us. The Delta variant is hitting the unvaccinated in many parts of the country including Ohio. Be vigilant and wear a mask more often, especially in crowded areas.

Now for an important calendar date: August 15th beginning at @ 1:30PM. A Memorial Service will be held at our Grace Lutheran Church for Patricia Fraunfelder, for many years a stalwart Communicant at Grace along with her husband, the late Bob Fraunfelder. These two people of God were always so kind to my son, James, when he was a student at Oberlin Conservatory. The Fraunfelders also showed great love to my late wife, Emilie, and me while we lived in Oberlin, inviting us often to their home and to their family gatherings. Bob and Pat's dedication to Grace, family, and friends will always be cherished. They are now together in Paradise. Mark August 15th (Sunday) on your calendar.

At the tail end of the month---August 29th, in fact---we will have our 3rd quarterly Voters' Assembly. This gathering will begin shortly after Sunday service. Pastor will email an agenda packet to those who have provided an e-mail address in plenty of time for you to peruse the agenda and accompanying reports.

Fred C. Feddeck

Quote of the month: "Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint!" (Mark Twain)

Buildings & Grounds Update

- Weather permitting, Coates Brothers should be replacing the church roof sometime mid-August.
- Volunteers are needed to mow the church lawn this month or next. You can sign up on the sheet in the church hallway or contact either one of us.

- Dale Rider & Tom Monroe -

<u>August Birthdays</u>		<u>August Anniversaries</u>	
Scott Scholl	8/1	Karen & Mark Huston	8/11
Caitlyn Scholl	8/03	Kathy & Randy Sklarek	8/29
Marcia Metzger	8/3		
Heidi Scholl	8/12		
Pastor Josh	8/18		
George Horning	8/22		
Aaron Turnbull	8/29		

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

Website Updates

This month we are hoping to update our church website through the help and leadership of a church website coordinator. If you have some ideas or suggestions on how to improve it, PLEASE email Pastor.

Check out the "Leadership" tab this month to see introductory videos from the Church Council and Elders, as they take a few moments to tell us a little bit about themselves. More will be uploaded soon.

Evangelism

Sunday, September 12th is Picnic time!

Come one, come all to New Russia Township's Pavilion #1 (across from Drug Mart, east of Rt 58 and south of Butternut Ridge). We will have our worship service at 10am and a potluck lunch will follow. We are supplying fried chicken, paper products, and bottled water. Lee Anne is handling the sign-up menu. After lunch will be fellowship and games with prizes for children and adults. Don't miss this event!

Bob Sherry

Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Confirmation Class:** Wednesday, August 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th at 10:00 am.
- **Private Communion Service:** Wednesday, August 4th from 1:00-2:30 and 7:00-8:00 pm.
- **Council Meeting:** Monday, August 9th at 7:00 pm.
- **Foundations of Faith Class:** Tuesday, August 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st at 10:00 am
- **Elder's Meeting:** Wednesday, August 11th at 7:00 pm.
- **Pat Fraunfelder Memorial Service:** Sunday, August 15th at 1:30 pm
- **Church Picnic Planning Meeting:** Sunday, August 22nd at 11:15 am
- **August Voters' Meeting Packets Distributed:** Sunday, August 22nd
- **August Quarterly Voters' Meeting:** Sunday, August 29th at 11:15 am
- **September Newsletter Articles Due:** Wednesday, September 1st

GRACE 2021 Service Schedule						
PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A REPLACEMENT SHOULD YOU BE UNABLE TO SERVE						
DATE	Usher	Acolyte	Greeter	Counters	Altar Guild	Lay Reader
Aug. 1st, 8th	Paul Castle	Reilly Jones	Lisa Lalonde	Bonnie A. & Lisa L.	Kathy Knipper	Dave Jones
Aug. 15th, 22nd	Bob Izold	Carter Jones	Lee Anne Christner	Fred F. & Glen F.	Karen Huston	Paul Castle
Aug. 29, Sept. 5	Paul Castle	David Jones	Anita Saathoff	Bonnie A. & Lisa L.	Carolyn Husted	Fred Feddeck

We are in need of a...

GOOD NEWS Stories About What GOD Has Been Doing Among Us

...for next month's newsletter. Consider how God has been at work around you lately, write up a quick email describing it, and send it to Pastor.

LWL News

GRACE'S RUMMAGE SALE

As most of you know every year the LWL does a Rummage Sale. This is the only big fundraiser that we do here at Grace. I'm told that they find greater success if it's scheduled during the same time as the Oberlin City-Wide Sale. Usually this is on the Labor Day weekend. Both sales were canceled last summer due to the pandemic. Carolyn Husted reports that again this year, the city will not be doing their Sale.

With the direction things seem to be going in regards to the possibility of another mask mandate, I feel we shouldn't do our Rummage Sale this year.

However, I'd like to hear from all of you. Please email me at secretary4grace@gmail.com or call at **440-864-9456** with your thoughts and suggestions regarding this topic. Let me know if and how you might be of help if we were to have the sale. Having enough help is also a problem. Thank you all for your help and understanding.

~ Lee Anne ~