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JUNE 2022

# Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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[www.gracechurchoberlin.wordpress.com](http://www.gracechurchoberlin.wordpress.com)

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

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## From the Pastor’s Desk . . .

**June** is a month to look up and around. Our eyes tend to wander. It’s a month to relax a little from our daily labors and routines and look around for various places to travel. *Where should we go this summer? What should we do? What foreign port beckons?* With nice weather and the kids out of school, it’s an ideal month to start traveling.

**June** is also a perfect month for us at Grace to step back and look around at our district. The LCMS is divided up into many districts, but the one we are in (the **English District**) is one of the largest and most widespread of all of them – stretching from Florida to northern Canada, San Francisco to Princeton, New Jersey. But the English District is more than just a lot of congregations located in lots of places you might want to travel to. On the final pages of the newsletter you’ll find some highlights of what our district is and does.

Two big English District events happen in June. The first is the **English District Gala** on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. It’s an online (Zoom) event with videos and presentations about the different mission and ministry projects going on around the district. At the same time, it’s also a fundraiser with an online auction of a wide variety of items (many of them gift cards) – all the proceeds of which goes to the **English District Endowment Fund**, and all the annual profits from that fund are given to English District mission and ministry projects (allowing them to continue). To learn more about this or to register for the Gala, go to [www.englishdistrict.org](http://www.englishdistrict.org)

The second big thing coming up this month is the **English District Convention** on the 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> on the campus of Concordia University Ann Arbor, Michigan. It’s designed sort of like a large Voters’ Meeting where we elect officers (like the District President, Vice-Presidents, Circuit Visitors, etc.) and

vote on different ideas. There are also theological presentations and reports from missionaries and synodical groups, along with worship and fellowship. Every church sends a pastor and a layperson. I'm going along with Jon Storr or Greg Christner (depending on health/travel plans). It's a busy time that connects us to all that's going on all around us in the district...

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

### May Official Pastoral Acts:

- 1 pastoral care visit
- 3 leadership meetings
- 2 evangelism contacts
- 1 family visitation
- 2 circuit visitor activities

<b>Upcoming Sermon Texts</b>	
June 5	Luke 4:14-15
June 12	John 8:48-59
June 19	Jonah 1
June 26	Jonah 2
July 3	Jonah 3

## Worship Information

- **Private Communion** is offered at church the first Wednesday of the month from 1:00-2:30 pm OR by private appointment. Contact Pastor if you'd prefer a home visit with private communion.

- Copies of the **Sunday sermons** are emailed out to everyone and a hard copy mailed out to several people without computer access. If you'd like to start receiving hard copies by mail OR if you'd no longer like to be receiving the weekly emails, please contact Pastor.

- **Coffee Hour** has resumed after worship. It has been scaled down in size and scope – which means less pressure and time needed for hosting. The **Ladies Aid** is looking for volunteers to host in the future.

## Adult Bible Class

Pastor's Sunday morning Adult Bible Class meets at 9:00 am the first two Sunday of every month. The class will meet in the Fellowship Hall, where there is plenty of room for social distancing and more chairs. In **May** we studied ***Equality vs. Hierarchy in the Trinity***, then started a discussion about ***Authority and Accountability within the Church***.

In June we are going to continue the above discussion, especially as it connects to the **biblical roles of a pastor**, touching on the things mentioned in the **Pastoral Evaluation** everyone is receiving this month. All are welcome to attend. This month we are also going to try **recording** the classes on **video** and then posting them on the website Monday mornings – so that those who want to will have every opportunity to learn and grow with us in God's Word...

## Children's Church

Children's Church will resume in June, but **2 more teachers are needed** to fill out the rotation for the summer months. Materials and lessons will be provided. No experience necessary. Talk to Tom Monroe or Pastor for more information.

## A Message from the President

Do we need a Sunday School? Of course we do. Really, what better way to teach our children Parables, Bible stories and the Bible itself. How the Bible pertains to our lives today. These stories are taught at their age level. Pastor's wife Jen has been teaching by herself for the 2 plus years that I have been back. She would like a break and I agree she certainly deserves one.

I learned the bible at the Sunday school level and at the dinner table. My father read to us Bible stories and then asked us questions about what we heard.

We have two members who are willing to teach Sunday school. We need two more teachers so each teacher would only have one Sunday a month on a rotating basis. The church has ordered from Concordia Publishing House lesson plans to assist the teachers. The time involved is minimal but the contribution would be large—pray about it; probably one hour commitment once a month.

*“Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Mark10:14*

Prayerfully Yours,  
Tom Monroe

## Evangelism Updates

BIG NEWS! Mark your calendars. Don't miss our **outdoor church service and picnic** at New Russia Township Park (Pavilion #1) on **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**. Always plenty of delicious food, and games for children and adults.

Our “Totes for Hope” are in and available in the Narthex. They are the navy and white tote bags with a Bible verse. I have attached a business card for the church. Please take some totes and pass them out.

Letters are being mailed to people who are buying real estate locally. In it, we invite them to join us on Sundays, or contact us with questions.

Sue Walker

## News from the Elders

This month we are going to try something a little new. Pastor and the Elders have put together a new **“Annual Pastor Evaluation – For Members.”** It's based on one used in another LCMS district. It looks for feedback in how the pastor is doing within 7 specific pastoral roles assigned when he accepted this Call. What's NEW is that we are asking ALL of the members to fill one out and return it. It's only 1 page (front and back) long. Copies of it will be placed in your church mailboxes this month. Please fill them out and return them to an Elder (Paul Castle or Greg Christner) or put them in the church mailbox labeled “ELDERS.” The deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you would like a blank form mailed to you (because you are unable to attend worship this month) please contact Paul Castle at 239-285-7334 or [CathyCastle10@gmail.com](mailto:CathyCastle10@gmail.com). If you have any other questions about this, feel free to contact Paul or Pastor.

# GRACE 2022 Service Schedule

\*\*\*PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A REPLACEMENT SHOULD YOU BE UNABLE TO SERVE\*\*\*

DATE	Usher	Acolyte	Greeter	Counters	Altar Guild	Lay Reader
June 5th, 12th	Paul Castle	Reilly Jones	Anita Saathoff	Fred F. & Glen F.	Kathy Knipper	Jon Storr
June 19th, 26th	Tom Monroe	Carter Jones	Bonnie A.	Jan Koepp & Lisa L.	Karen Huston	Fred Feddeck
July 4th, 11th	Dale Rider	Lisa Labonde	Lee Anne Christner	Fred F. & Glen F.	Colleen Karp	Anita Saathoff

## News from the Treasurer

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

During the last Voter's Meeting we discussed budgeting the church's income and expenses. Using last year's expenditures and the current number of households giving regularly, we calculated the amount required per household to maintain the church. In order to maintain the church with the current number of giving households, each household must contribute **\$65** per week. We are appreciative of any amount given to the church. However, I implore you to consider this amount when determining your contributions to the church.

In order to assist with the ease of weekly contributions, we discussed establishing automatic payment options which would allow each member to set up weekly automatic deductions from their checking account to the church at no cost to them. There is a small fee associated with this that the church would pay. We are looking to see if there is interest from the membership. If you are interested, please e-mail [treasurer16glc@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer16glc@gmail.com).

The church is also considering fundraising options. If you have any ideas for fundraisers, please e-mail Council.

~ Myles Bremke

<u>June Birthdays</u>		<u>June Anniversaries</u>	
Norma Stechow	6/2	John & Kathy Knipper	6/15
Colleen Karp	6/3	Robin & Glenn Turnbull	6/15
Kathy Koepp	6/6	Pastor & Jen Moldenhauer	6/30
Elizabeth Thomas	6/7		
Tom Monroe	6/8		
Jen Moldenhauer	6/10		
Karen Fridenstine	6/12		
Mark Huston	6/16		
Giovanna Bremke	6/16		
David Jones	6/20		
Carolyn Husted	6/25		
Dave Metzger	6/26		
Chris Koch	6/27		
Miranda Scholl	6/27		
Coralie Swanzer	6/28		

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

## Altar Guild News

Updated information for ordering flowers:

The Carlyle Shop of Oberlin is happy to make a floral arrangement using the church's altar vase and they will deliver it to church as well. The cost will be **\$35**. Unfortunately, the florist is not immune to the inflation we are experiencing, thus the reason for the price increase. An Altar Guild member can assist you with obtaining the altar vase that you would need to deliver to the florist when you place/pay for your floral order.

*~Thank you for serving~*

~ Robin Turnbull

## Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Confirmation Class:** Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm;  
Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm
- **Private Communion Service:** Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:00-2:30 pm.
- **Koepp Rental of Fellowship Hall:** Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Pastoral Evaluations Distributed:** Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>
- **Adult Bible Class:** Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.
- **Coffee Hour:** Every Sunday at 11:00 am.
- **Elder's Meeting:** Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **Council Meeting:** Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **English District Convention at CUAA:** June 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>
- **July Newsletter Articles Due:** Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>
- **Due Date for Returning All Pastoral Evaluations:** Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>.

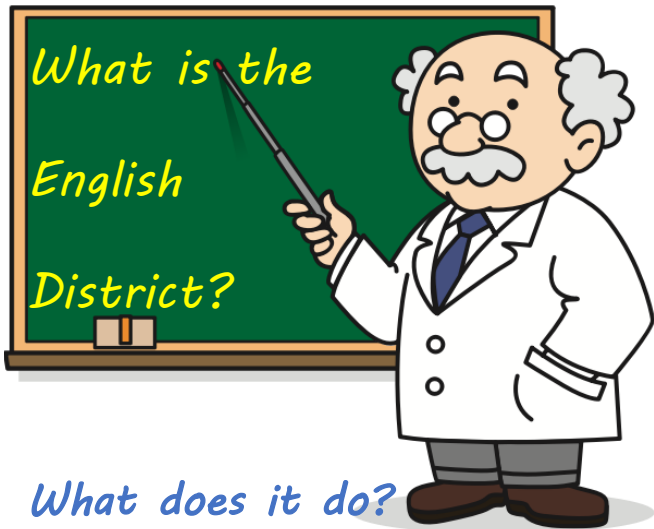
## Buildings & Grounds Update

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex hallway asking for volunteers to cut the church grass. Any one is welcome including the women.

- Dale Rider -

## 2022 Church Directory

Pictures and information have all be gathered for the **2022 Church Directory**. It's currently in the finalizing stage – and should be emailed out to everyone soon. If you'd like to request a hard copy, please contact Pastor or website coordinator **Kendis Bender** at [dbender6@gmail.com](mailto:dbender6@gmail.com)



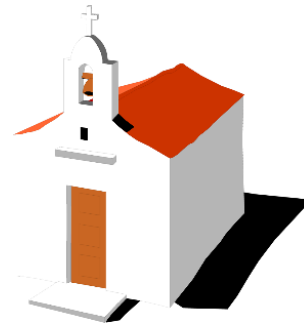
It is a non-geographical District of the LCMS that is represented in 22 states and Canada

*What does it do?*



*Helps congregations call church workers*

*Helps to plant new missions, supports current missions and helps older congregations revitalize*



*Supports campus ministries  
Promotes and supports Lutheran Education*

*Prays regularly for every congregation and ministry of the English District*

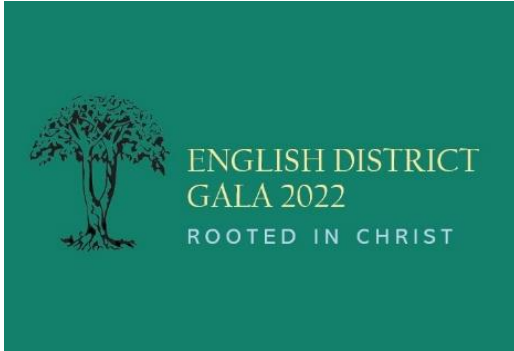


*Manages the District's Endowment Fund that:*

- lowers Church Worker student debt*
- \* starts new ministries*
- \* scholarships Church Workers*
- \* supports mission work*
- \* provides human care and disaster relief*

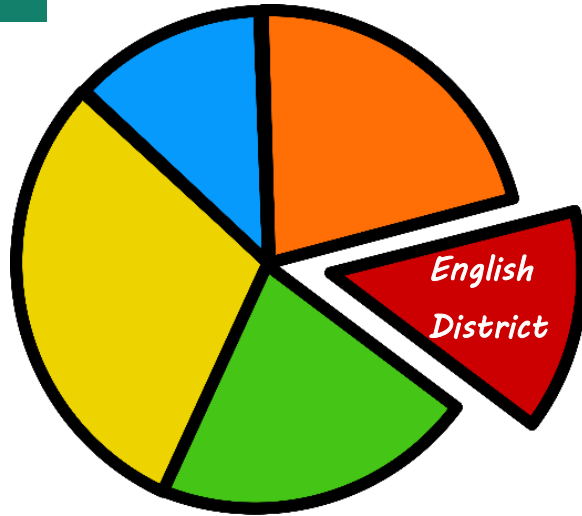
*What can we do for our district?*

*Pray for the ministries throughout the district, our Bishop and his staff*



*Attend and support the online Gala on June 12, 2022 at 7:30pm Eastern*

*Support the work of the district with a congregational budget line-item*



*or a door offering or a fund raiser*



*Support the 1+1+1 Missions Ministry by having a 1+1+1 collection box at your church (1 dollar from each member every week)*