
JULY 2022

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

310 West Lorain Street,
Oberlin, OH. 44074
440-775-3271

Pastor Josh Moldenhauer
Graceoberlinpastor@gmail.com

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.”*

From the Pastor’s Desk . . .

The **English District Convention** was held on June 20-22 at Concordia University Ann Arbor, Michigan. Jon Storr (as our lay delegate) and I attend this convention – which normally takes place every 3 years, but this was 4 years since the last one (due to the pandemic). When people ask me what these conventions are like, my normal response is that they are a lot like **big voters’ meetings**. And that’s true... to a degree. They are BIG – with somewhere around 200 people in attendance. They are “*like voters’ meetings*” – because the sessions are run largely according to Robert’s Rule of Order. There is an Agenda and we do vote on stuff – like selecting the District President for the next 3 years (which is **Rev. Jamison Hardy** again), along with the vice-presidents, board of directors, and other various boards – including the Circuit Visitors, to which I was re-elected... partly because I was running unopposed. 😊

But a district convention involves much more than just this “district business.” **Jack Phillips**, the famous Christian baker from Colorado who refused to build a homosexual wedding cake (and was later vindicated by the Supreme Court), spoke about his experiences. **Lieutenant General William Boykin**, commander of military engagements including Blackhawk Down, shared his experiences of being publicly reprimanded and investigated due to his Christian faith – only to be eventually vindicated. **Pastor Keith Speaks** gave a wonderful talk about what walking together as Christians looks like in the messiness of everyday life – complete with a discussion of what CHURCHMANSHIP is and does. We heard a report from **Rev. Matthew Harrison** – the President of the LCMS – who was there to tell us about all the good things that God is doing within our church body and among Lutheran Churches across the world! We heard updates from various **English**

District boards (Missions Council, Evangelization Team, Campus Ministry, Endowment Fund, etc.) There was a tent FILLED with different ministry groups that we could go and learn more about – everything from **Rev. Jay Dass**, the head of the young but growing Lutheran Confessional Church of Pakistan (which is looking for funds and seminary professors) – to **Dr. Mark Wood**, who leads the Office of National Mission (of the LCMS), directs the Re:Vitality program, and has written most of the video series for it.

And on top of all that... at every meal we ate with fellow pastors and laypeople, where we had a chance to connect with them and hear about how life and ministry is going in other parts of the country. Suffice it to say... it was a busy few days!

If I had to summarize it all down, I would say that our district is led by an energetic, capable, leader of a pastor (Bishop Hardy). The convention wants to affirm the right of congregations to remain open, without government interference, and to encourage everyone to worship every Sunday. There is excitement because the district (and synod) are in good financial shape and are poised to use their resources to send out more missionaries, church planters, and to revitalize older congregations. Despite possible persecutions, hardships, or worldly ideologies, we were encouraged to *“love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind”* (Luke 10:27).

Let that be your encouragement also...

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

June Official Pastoral Acts:

- 7 pastoral care visits
- 6 leadership meeting
- 3 evangelism contacts
- 4 circuit visitor activities
- 2 private communions
- 1 family visitation

Upcoming Sermon Texts	
July 3	Jonah 3
July 10	Jonah 4
July 17	Luke 10:38-42
July 24	Luke 11:1-13
July 31	Luke 12:16-34

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.

News from the Elders

The Elders would like to thank everyone who took the time and effort to fill out the *“Annual Pastor Evaluation”* last month. They will be working this month to tabulate all the results.

Children's Church

Children's Church has resumed. Teachers have been found for every summer Sunday except **July 17th**! Materials and lessons are provided. No experience necessary. Please talk to Tom Monroe or Pastor if you might be willing to volunteer.

Adult Bible Class

Pastor's Sunday morning Adult Bible Class meets at 9:00 am the first two Sunday of every month. We still meet in the Fellowship Hall. In **May** and **June** we started a discussion about **Authority and Accountability within the Church** by looking at the **Priesthood of All Believers** and the **Biblical Roles of a Pastor**. In July we going to continue this series by looking at why the **Lives of Pastor and People Matter** and then the **Roles & Expectations of God's People**.

We have decided NOT to record our Adult Bible Classes and post them on the website. This is partly due to the uncomfotability for those in attendance (of being seen or heard world-wide). But it was also meant to encourage all others to make every effort to get there on Sunday mornings – so that our questions, answers, and learning might all be done together (as a group of believers united in Christ...).

Evangelism Updates

Our outdoor church service and picnic will be held at New Russia Township Park (Pavilion #1) on **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH**. Please plan to be there! Always plenty of delicious food, and games for children and adults.

Sue Walker

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
July 3rd, 10th	Dale Rider	Lisa Lalonde	Karen F.	Bonnie A. & Dale R.	Colleen Karp	Anita Saathoff
July 17th, 24th	Bob Izold	David Jones	Sue W.	Fred F. & Glen F.	Robin Turnbull	Paul Castle
July 31st, Aug. 7	Tom Monroe	Reilly Jones	Lisa Lalonde	Jan Koepp & Lisa L.	Kathy Knipper	Fred Feddeck

<u>July Birthdays</u>		<u>July Anniversaries</u>	
Bob Izold	7/11	Mike & Debbie Burt	7/1
Lisa Lalonde	7/18	Kris & Kathy Koepf	7/25
Kathy Rutherford	7/22		

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

Buildings & Grounds Update

- The fellowship hall gable vents have been sanded and painted, as have the stair railings by the backdoor steps.
- The fellowship hall emergency door has been painted and replaced. There were problems with the latch due to misunderstanding with the seller. Adjustments were made and door is mounted correctly.
- There has been some confusion with the church parking lot and difficulty for church members finding a parking spot during the week. Tom Monroe will be in contact with the owner of the business across the street to address this issue.

- Dale Rider -

Changing Lives Around the World with the Gospel.

Cambodia

Ben is 36 years old and makes a living by traveling to villages to buy secondhand items and resell them. He is married with four children and provides for his father who started living with him after his mother died several months ago. Ben grew up in a non-Christian religious household. In 1998, Ben's father heard the Gospel for the first time and was led by the Holy Spirit to become a Christian. After that time, Ben was around 14 years old and wanted to challenge his father's new faith. Now, Ben's father is a supporter of LHM – Cambodia and uses their booklets for sharing the Gospel with others. Recently, Ben's father asked him to read the Bible to him because his eyesight was starting to decline, and it was hard for him to read the print. Ben was willing to help his father and figured he could find reasons to back up his plan to avoid Christianity. As he read the Bible, Ben did not find reasons to support his beliefs. He instead realized that he wanted a relationship with God. Through the power of God's Word, Ben became a Christian. Ben and his family became volunteers for LHM-Cambodia and continue to grow in their faith.

This is from the Lutheran Hour Ministries publication, "The Lutheran Layman", Spring 2022.

Remembering Some of the History of the Lutheran Women's League at Grace

Some interesting history! Ladies Aide started in the early 1940s. Monthly meetings were held both at the church and the homes. Officers included the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, program lady and sunshine lady. LWML was a national group. Here in Ohio there are two LWML districts – one through the Ohio District and the other through the English District. We were part of the English District along with Grace Lutheran Church in Elyria and several churches east of us. We had two rallies a year. I remember once when we had over 80 women in attendance. As far as our women's group becoming LWL, I am not sure when the change was made. My mom Margaret Meilander was a very active member. I remember her telling me that in the early years they had an upwards of 25 ladies in Grace's women's group. The attendance held at that number for many years. I joined Women's League when I was 20 years old. Our group was very active locally and state-wide. Through the years some of the activities included annual mother/daughter and father/son banquets. The hall was always filled! We also had several fundraising activities which included smorgasbords, bake sales, Christmas cookie sales, Rummage sales, outside summer ice cream socials and cookbooks sales that were made up by our members submitting their favorite recipes. We also did care boxes for the college students and shut-ins. All in all I can say that these are truly fond memories I have. Thanks for asking me to share them.

Sincerely,
Coralie Swanzer

Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Adult Bible Class:** Sunday, July 3rd & 10th at 9:00 am.
- **Coffee Hour:** Every Sunday at 11:00 am.
- **Private Communion Service(s):** Wednesday, July 6th from 1:00-2:30 pm.
- **Elder's Meeting:** Wednesday, July 6th at 7:00 pm.
- **Confirmation Class:** Wednesday, July 27th at 1:30 pm.
- **August Newsletter Articles Due:** Wednesday, July 27th

2022 Church Directory

The **2022 Church Directory** has been finished and emailed out to the congregation. If you would like a hard copy, please contact Pastor Josh. A big thank you to Kendis Bender and Jon Storr, who did all the hard work for it.

In January, we will hope to put together a new **2023** Directory with even MORE pictures!!!