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OCTOBER 2022

# 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.”*

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## From the Pastor’s Desk . . .

*Life is full of surprises.* I wasn’t expecting a message from the Ohio District’s Circuit Visitor asking me to become the new Vacancy Pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Wellington, Ohio. I knew Rev. Dale Huelsman was retiring sometime this year... but wasn’t even sure exactly when. But since there aren’t many (or any) retired pastors living in the area – and I’m the closest pastor to Wellington – I was sort of the natural choice. I’m honored to serve.

I’ve never been a **vacancy pastor** before – so I’m going to have to learn some of this as I go. My job at here at Grace doesn’t change – I still am here in the office, still leading worship on Sundays, still leading Foundations of Faith classes during the week, etc. What gets added is doing the basic, minimum pastoral stuff at Bethany: preparing and leading worship services, visiting shut-ins and those hospitalized, and teaching Confirmation. But I won’t be attending any meetings or providing any pastoral leadership.

Being a vacancy pastor is also a “*temp job*” – meaning that it is purposefully designed to be temporary. Bethany has already begun working through the **call process** – doing a self-study, which will be followed by a list of potential pastors and then a Divine Call. As soon as their next pastor accepts the Divine Call and is installed, my vacancy pastor work will be complete.

While this shouldn’t greatly affect anyone at Grace, I wanted to be sure to communicate with you about what is going on. It will change the time of the Sunday morning **Adult Bible Classes** going forward – since Bethany’s Sunday services are going to be at 8:30 am, which means Bible Classes at Grace will need to move to AFTER worship - at 11:20 am. (It also might help explain why I’m running late to church some Sunday this winter when the snow is piling up and the roads are bad...)

What all this can do is remind us that **God's Kingdom** stretches beyond just Grace Lutheran Church – and God gives us lots of ways in which we can help and be helped by others, from partnerships with congregations to the work of other individuals and groups within the English District – and beyond.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

PS I'd like to make a point to thank **Sue Walker** and all those who had a hand in the Church Picnic and Outdoor Worship Service on September 18<sup>th</sup>. They did a lot of planning, set up, organizing, and clean up. There were some good games and great weather. We were blessed.

### September Official Pastoral Acts:

- 5 pastoral care visits
- 4 leadership meeting
- 3 family visitations
- 1 circuit visitor activity

### Upcoming Sermon Texts

October 2	2 Timothy 2:20-26
October 9	2 Timothy 3:1-15
October 16	2 Timothy 3:14-17
October 23	2 Timothy 4:1-8
October 30	Luke 16:16-17

## Worship Information

- **Private Communion** is offered at church the first Wednesday of the month from 2:30-4:00 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** has posted a sign-up sheet for people willing to host in the upcoming weeks. Non-perishable refreshments have also been purchased to be used as needed. Talk to Lee Anne Christner for further details.

## Evangelism Updates

Our church picnic was held Sept 18<sup>th</sup> and we had great weather, only a few yellow jackets, and a nice church service! The food was delicious and plentiful. Thank you to Colleen and Erin for handling the children's games! We also had a couple games for the rest of us. Many people helped put this event together, thank you to all involved!

Sue Walker

## Adult Bible Class

Pastor's Sunday morning Adult Bible Class meets at 11:20 am the first two Sunday of every month in the large hallway classroom. Last month we finished the extended series on **Authority and Accountability within the Church** – especially as it relates to evaluations.

This month we are starting a new series on the **Parables of Jesus**. Everyone is welcome.

## 2022 Nominating Committee

The **2022 Nominating Committee** consists of the following people: Pastor Josh, Tom Monroe, Greg Christner, Fred Feddeck, and Bonnie Abicht. They are currently accepting nominations for the following Council positions:

Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Buildings & Grounds Deacon.

On Sunday, **October 23<sup>rd</sup>** they will place in church mailboxes a preliminary list of those who have been nominated so far for those positions. The final deadline for nominations is **November 11<sup>th</sup>** – at which time they will be assembled on the official slate placed into the **November Voters' Meeting Packet**. For a detailed list of the duties of each position, please see Grace's Bylaws. If you need a copy of the church Constitution and Bylaws, please contact Lee Anne Christner or Pastor. You are encouraged to nominate a capable member for those positions of service.

## 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	Communion Assistant
<b>Oct. 2nd</b>	Dale Rider	Carter Jones	Bonnie A.	Bonnie A. & Dale R.	Kathy Knipper	Paul Castle	Paul Castle
<b>Oct. 9th, 16th</b>	Andy Karp	David Jones	Andy Karp	Fred F. & Glen F.	Karen Huston	Fred Feddeck	Greg Christner
<b>Oct. 23rd, 30th</b>	Tom Monroe	Reilly Jones	Lisa Labnde	Jan Koepp & Lisa L.	Colleen Karp	Dave Jones	Bob Izold

<u>September Birthdays</u>		<u>September Anniversaries</u>	
Dylan Fridenstine	9/2	Bonnie & Gary Abicht	9/2
Lori Izold	9/13	George & Eva Horning	9/5
Karen Huston	9/14	Scott & Heidi Scholl	9/18
Kloe Koepp	9/17	Glen & Karen Fridenstine	9/26
Chip Fridenstine	9/20		

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

## English District News

At the Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> **Circuit Forum** at Ascension Lutheran Church in North Olmstead, the following elections took place with regards to next summer's Synodical Convention:

Pastoral Delegate - Rev. Bob Weldon - Grace, Elyria  
Lay Delegate - Terry Leu - Prince of Peace, Medina  
Pastoral Alternate - Rev. Michael Scheer - Holy Cross, Cleveland  
Lay Alternate - Mark Thomas - Concordia, Akron

These are the people that will be representing us at the upcoming event. We are thankful for their service. More information about will be relayed about the Synodical Convention as it gets closer.

## Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Adult Bible Class:** Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:20 am.
- **Coffee Hour:** Every Sunday at 11:00 am.
- **Private Communion Service:** Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30 pm.
- **Foundations of Faith Class:** Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, & 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am & Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, & 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.
- **Elder's Meeting:** Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **Council Meeting:** Wednesday, October, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **District Fall Regional Pastor's Conference:** Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> in Toledo, Ohio.
- **Preliminary Slate of Council Nominations Distributed:** Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- **November Newsletter Articles Due:** Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **November Quarterly Voters' Meeting:** Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:20 am.