

# AMAZING GRACE

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 607 S. Main St., Jackson Center, Ohio 45334  
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## Asking and Granting Forgiveness

"I was wrong". Those are three words that just don't flow off our tongues very well. They seem to get stuck in our throat. When we do say them, we are often asked to repeat them since it comes as such a shock or surprise to some people. The other person wants to hear those words again, to make sure they heard correctly. But why are they such difficult words to say? I would guess that we don't want to be wrong or in the wrong. Each of us wants to be right. And when we are not right, we at least want to justify our reason and be self-righteous. But have you ever noticed a pattern when our own self has to be right all the time? That attitude disrupts every relationship we have – between spouses, between children, between friends, between family members. We hate to admit, "I was wrong" and will self-justify. Notice that reflection on self. The Lord calls that inner focus on self as sin. And sin breaks relationships. We need to change the attitude of self-righteousness, or we just continue to contribute to the problem of the broken relationship. It doesn't bring us closer to the other, in fact it separates us from the other. So what does God say about this problem?

God points out in 1 John 1:8-10  
*the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.*  
*If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.*

Ahh. Confession. Admitting that we have done something wrong, said something wrong, thought wrongly or have left undone, unsaid, or didn't think before acting that gets each of us into trouble. We may not even understand what the problem is or how we have contributed to the problem since we didn't even see it as a problem. But all of a sudden, we are in a conflict, and we need to humbly find how and where the misunderstanding came in and ask for forgiveness.

"I was wrong". "Please forgive me." Realizing we have wronged another and therefore God also, we ask for that forgiveness so that the relationship may have a future. Forgiveness is an act of God. Our heavenly Father so loves you that he sent Jesus to take all the blame for your wrongdoing, to suffer the consequences of your sin and wrongs, and to give you his own righteousness. God says in Isaiah 43:25 that he forgives for his own sake. And Psalm 103:12 tells us that God removes your sin as far as the east is from the west and remembers it no more.

If we want to continue to have strong relationships with our spouse, children, friends, family, co-workers, and yes, God, we need to confess when we are wrong. And then to ask for forgiveness. And to receive that forgiveness as if from God himself in Christ Jesus. The beauty of forgiveness is that it binds us to Jesus and his word lives in us and works in us and flows out of us as a way of life. Like breathing, forgiveness in Jesus is a way of life. It keeps us alive and strong in Him.

See You in Worship,  
*Pastors Bert and Shelly Schultz*

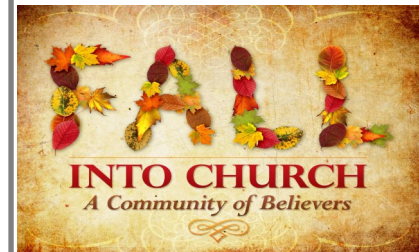
## Sunday Worship Schedule

**October 15th:** WOC  
Thankoffering Sunday with  
Special Guest Speaker Mary  
Bates with NALC Disaster  
Relief.

**October 15th:** Quarterly  
Congregational Meeting.

**October 29th:**  
Reformation Sunday.

**November 5th:** All Saints  
Sunday, We remember those  
who have died in Christ.



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***Deadline for the next  
newsletter is  
October 23***

# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Church Administrative Council Minutes

## September 10, 2023

John Pence, called the September 10, 2023, meeting to order with the following CAC members present: Scott Klopfenstein, Seth Regula, Bert Regula, Garrett Serr, Pastor Shelly, Pastor Bert, Matt Kohler, Roger Detrick, Marcia Davis, and Tanya Hinegardner.

Tanya Hinegardner had the devotion about God covers our sin. "Neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." (John 8:11)

Secretary's report was approved as presented. Matt Kohler moved and Garrett Serr seconded the secretary's report. Motion carried.

Bert Regula, presented the treasurer's report for August 2023. Total receipts for August were \$18,207.61 and expenses were \$16,166.92. The ending balance in the checking account on 08/31/2023 was \$63,738.30. August was an uneventful month. Marcia Davis moved and Seth Regula seconded the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

### **\*Pastor's Report for the month of September 2023**

#### **Pastoral Visitation for August**

Home Visits	11
Office Visits	10
Ministry Meetings	17
Hospital Visits	4

We have also participated in a variety of other parish and community interactions which include phone calls, emails, texts, and other activities.

#### **Informational Updates**

- Attended NALC Mission Convocation in Oklahoma City with 3 Grace delegates August 9-11
- Led worship at Dorothy Love Amos Chapel, Sidney, August 20<sup>th</sup>, Brendan Serr assisted, Shirley Schindel piano accompanist
- Adult Sunday school studying Martin Luther's Small Catechism
- Catechism began for 4 students – two 7<sup>th</sup> grade + 2 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Fundraiser breakfasts – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Youth; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Tanzania Mission Trip

#### **NALC Informational Updates**

- Hosting Ethan Zimmerman, seminarian from Mansfield, Ohio, Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. He was very appreciative of the support from our congregation and he hopes to come back.
- NALC Disaster Response in need of flood cleaning buckets and kitchen kits. Buckets will be available to fill starting on September 17<sup>th</sup>
- Hosting NW Mission District pastors gathering September 12<sup>th</sup>
- Suggested topics for Educational Event for Ohio Mission Region, Friday, May 3, 2024

#### **Continuing Education**

- "Faith Formation" for youth and families, NALC, August 8-9, Oklahoma City

#### **Vacation**

- September 18-25, 2023; Garrett Serr leading worship, Pastor Adam Poe will be on-call for pastoral emergencies; need for host to greet for that Sunday – Not needed because Garrett is leading worship
- October 19-23, 2023; Rev. Bob Forsberg leading worship; Pastor Bill Maki will be on-call for pastoral emergencies; need for host to greet for that Sunday – Seth Regula will greet Rev. Bob Forsberg

#### **\*Old Business**

- Fresh Eyes Summit report. The banners have come in and the prayer before school opening was successful. Still talking about serving hot dogs at a soccer game and Garrett will help find a date for that.
- Church cookbooks. Discussed the idea of selling them at the community Christmas. Women of the Church will come up with a price to sell them for.
- Youth bake sale at Thanksgiving service. It was agreed that they could have a bake sale after the Thanksgiving service upstairs.
- Dial My Calls Update. The system was tested and is working. If you did not get the message, please provide Nikki with your phone number.
- Nominating Committee update. They will be meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.
- Safety update training dates. Discussing who to offer the training to or whether to offer it in Adult Sunday School.
- Update on Church's website. Pastor Shelly has met with Pat Shuff a couple of times and he has set up the website. Pastor Shelly and Connie Schneider are working on the content. A graphic artist is needed to help with the website so it is visionally appealing. Gabrielle Woolley was mentioned to ask about helping. Also, talked about having someone to help maintain the website. Pastor Shelly also needs content for each of the committees.
- Rally Day debrief. Next year we will have the two church services and Sunday School due to the attendance being down in 2023. It was also discussed to check with the school as to when they are having the chicken dinner that supports the youth sports.
- Seminary Scholarship update. Ethan Zimmerman preached for our congregation on September 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Community Foundation Match Day. The three are Tanzania Missions, Fresh Eyes, and Grace Technology that people can donate to. The three were submitted and they will meet on September 19<sup>th</sup>. It can be marketed after November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Change of time for CAC meeting. It was decided that the meetings will continue as discussed for 2023 and will discuss changing in 2024.

#### **\*New Business**

- Committee budgets due the end of the month.
- Start audit team selection process. Greg Woolley, Kristen

Davis, and Cassi Klopfenstein are the members.

- Pastors vacation 09/18/23-09/24/23 Garrett Serr leading worship.
- Request 3 delegates to write a report for the quarterly meeting.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Choice:** Tanya Hinegardner – No report.

**Education:** John Pence & Marcia Davis – The Education Committee met on August 13, 2023, with Lori Wiswell, Pastor Shelly, Becky Copeland, Darlene Woolley, Julie Klopfenstein, Bonnie Kaufman, Joyce Regula, Elsa Stengel, Doug Hinegardner and Abby Pence present. Doug opened with prayer. January through August Sunday School offering income was \$2,119.31. Year to date expenses of \$964.26. Secretary's report was reviewed and approved. Becky informed the committee that the new Sunday School material was purchased. Post cards will be sent out to all possible Sunday School ages prior to Rally Day. The Catechism class will be doing a 30- lesson bible review during Sunday School. Pastor Shelly reported that a letter would be sent out to all eligible Catechism kids. They will be studying the Lord's Prayer and Apostles Creed. Bibles will be passed out to the incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade Catechism class on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Over the summer, the adult education studied the meaning, the purpose, and identifying the word of God and services to God. Gospel Gang will begin on September 6<sup>th</sup>. VBS went great and was well attended. VBS decided to support the F.I.S.H. food pantry. Kids were encouraged to bring in food items to donate to F.I.S.H. Rally Day is August 27, 2023, with Sunday School starting at 9:15 am and one Church service at 10:30 am. There will be a carry in following the church service. Sunday School constitution revisions will be brought to the next meeting. New business included the Education Committee will be hosting a "Trunk or Treat" again on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 5:30 pm. Important dates to keep in mind are the live Nativity on December 3, 2023, at 5:30 pm. The Sunday School Christmas program will be December 17, 2023. The Gospel Gang, Catechism, and Luther League will be going Christmas caroling on December 6, 2023, at 6:15 pm. Next meeting will be November 13, 2023, at 6:00 pm. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Endowment:** Matt Kohler – No report received.

**Friendship:** Marcia Davis – No report.

**Lay/Witness:** Bert Regula – Meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. Buckets will be available to pick up on September 17<sup>th</sup> and picked up on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth:** Garrett Serr – Luther League – Had their seasonal kick-off meeting on Labor Day. Plan to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month, 5:30-7:00. Will be having breakfast again this year between Church and Sunday School – will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. Planning to help the Catechism classes with decorating the Church for Christmas on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Gospel Gang - Had a great seasonal kick-off on September 6<sup>th</sup> with 12 youth attending.

**Worship:** Seth Regula – No report received. There is a new layout to the prayer list in the bulletin.

**Mission:** Scott Klopfenstein – No report received. The mission trip registration is open still if anyone is interested in going. They

will be having breakfast on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month for fundraising.

**Property & Trustee:** Roger Detrick, Scott Klopfenstein & John Pence – No report received. The basketball backboard is up. There was no interest in the old picnic tables. Two picnic went out to the reservation for the youth.

### **\*Any other business before adjourning?**

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Tanya Hinegardner, Sec.

## **Committee Reports**

**Lay Ministry/Witness Committee:** Linda Jenkins opened our September 10, 2023 meeting with a devotional reading titled "Live to Serve" based upon 1Peter 4:10. Her reading encourages us to serve God and man with our words and actions.

Susan Ware read the secretary's report and members reported 6 visits and 5 communions with our homebound members.

We are ready for the "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage" event which will happen on September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> here at the church. All plans are in place. Linda will make food and material purchases with a Thrivent card and a contribution from the Choice Committee. Members have their menu contributions and duties assigned. We are looking forward to a most meaningful time of laughter and fellowship during the viewing of this video series.

We are also ready to kickoff our "Bucket Sunday" project. We are delighted to have Kendall Hilburn join us on this project. Kendall and Mike Hecht will be explaining the projects during the service on September 17. The project will culminate as we collect filled buckets on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Due to the number of devastating storms and severe weather conditions this past year the NALC warehouses have been emptied and there is a tremendous need for these buckets. We can help and we hope you'll join us in this service project! Thank you!

Respectfully submitted, Susan Ware, Secretary



# Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 1:	Luther League Breakfast with proceeds going to Chris & Rhonda Burch.
Tuesday, October 3:	Cleaning 9:00 am-11:00 am.
Wednesday, October 4:	Gospel Gang.
Wednesday, October 4:	Mission Committee Meeting.
Sunday, October 8:	Tanzania Mission Trip Breakfast.
Sunday, October 8:	CAC Meeting.
Wednesday, October 11:	WOC Board Meeting.
Sunday, October 15:	WOC Thankoffering Sunday with guest speaker Mary Bates.
Sunday, October 15:	Quarterly Congregational Meeting.
Monday, October 16:	Men's Group.
Sunday, October 22:	WOC Breakfast.
Sunday, October 29:	Trunk or Treat in parking lot.
Monday, October 30:	Worship Committee Meeting.

## Official Announcement

### Quarterly Congregational Meeting 9:15 AM Sunday, October 15, 2023

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold the quarterly congregational meeting beginning at 9:15 am Sunday, October 15, 2023.

## 2024 Tanzania Mission Trip - Join Us!

**Dates:** May 30 to June 11, 2024

**Total cost:** \$4,300\*

**Maximum registrants:** only 19 can go!

**Included:** Air tickets from Chicago, IL (please contact us when flying from elsewhere so we can assist with alternative travel arrangements), accommodation and meals, domestic flights and transportation in Tanzania, purified water, pre-trip training, trained in CPR & First Aid, and experienced One Plus God staff accompanying you during the entire trip, and some awesome One Plus God merchandise.

**Excluded:** Meals at airports, snacks, extra drinks, and souvenirs.

**Accommodation:** After a wonderful day in ministry you'll stay at clean hotels or guesthouses with private bathrooms and comfortable beds.

**Vaccination & Shots:** None required.

**Age Restrictions:** All ages are welcome to join!

**Passports:** You can register right now even without your passport - however, apply for your passport as soon as possible after registration.

**Deposit:** Non-refundable deposit of \$430 is required for early registration by December 10, 2023.

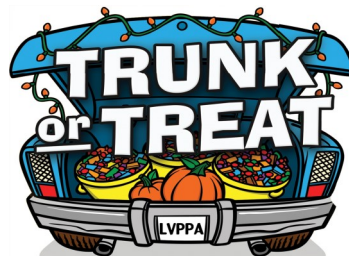
For more details got to <https://oneplusgod.regfox.com/tanzania-2024> or ask Pastor Bert, Julie Klopfenstein, Greg Woolley.

## Grace's Trunk or Treat

**Sunday, October 29  
4-5:30 pm**

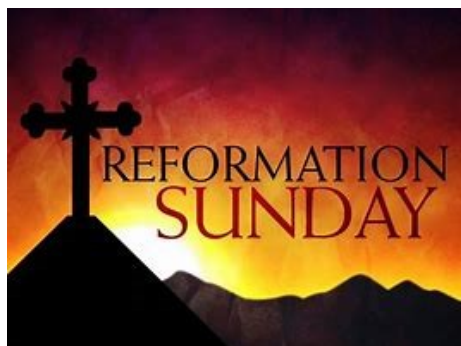
So what exactly is trunk-or-treat?

The idea is simple: Bring your car to the Grace Lutheran north parking lot. The drivers and their families decorate their cars for Halloween, sometimes creating elaborate scenes out of their trunks. Then kids walk from vehicle to vehicle, collecting candy or a Christian novelty item so that we might share Jesus' love. You are invited to participate in this first Trunk or Treat at Grace.






# Grace at Worship ...



This lesser festival recalls the momentous day in 1517 when Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses, arguments about papal indulgences and forgiveness, to the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. It is a day when the Protestant Church celebrates the concept of *semper reformanda*: that the church is always to be in a state of reformation lest we become complacent in our ways and fail to proclaim the truth of the Gospel message.

## Worship Servants for Sundays in October 2023

	<b>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 1</b>	<b>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 8</b>	<b>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 15</b>	<b>Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost October 22</b>	<b>Reformation Sunday October 29</b>
<b>Lessons</b>	Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32; Ps 25:1-10; Phil 2:1-4, 14-18; Matt 21:23-27	Isaiah 5:1-7; Ps 80:7- 19; Phil 3:4b-14; Matt 21:33-46	Isaiah 25:6-9; Ps 23; Phil 4:4-13; Matt 22:1- 14	Isaiah 45:1-7; Ps 96:1-9; 1 Thess. 1:1- 10; Matt 22:15-22	Revel. 14:6-7; Ps 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36
	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
<b>Organists</b>	Cheryl Burch	Nancy McName	Cheryl Burch	Nancy McName	Cheryl Burch
<b>Acolytes</b>	Julia Burch	Archer Copeland	Brendan Serr	Julia Burch	Archer Copeland
<b>Crucifers</b>	Julia Burch	Archer Copeland	Brendan Serr	Julia Burch	Archer Copeland
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Fritz Serr	Aaron Klopfenstein	WOC	Linda Jenkins	Rick Russell
<b>A/V</b>	None	Preston Serr Cortney Copeland	None	Carter Klopfenstein Ian Stengel	None
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	Maycee Kipker	TBA	TBA	Maycee Kipker	TBA
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Shirley DeWeese	Greg Woolley	WOC	Jen Woolley	Tom Woolley
<b>Communion Preparation</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>8:00 am 10:30 am</b>
<b>A/V</b>	Kay Frieders	Karen Hatfield	Karen Hatfield	Kay Frieders	Kay Frieders
<b>Song Leaders</b>	Krista Withrow Matt Kohler	Katie Woolley Greg Woolley	Kay Frieders Rick Sailor	Kassie Ludwig Matt Kohler	Jill Ludwig Greg Woolley

## Women of the Church

The WOC Board met on September 10, 2023 with 17 members present, with 1 guest, Pastor Shelly. We were served a delicious meal prepared by the board members.

Opening was given by Linda Jenkins. It was a reading entitled "Service Syndrome." In it we were told that those who serve reap the most benefits. Jesus came to Earth to serve us as well as save us.

14 dozen cookies were delivered to the Alpha Center. This is the service project for the month of September.

Treasurer Toni Leininger reported the balance of \$4,286.16.

Drapery fund has a balance of \$971.50.

Karen Hatfield read minutes from our last meeting & were approved.

Barb Wical reported collection of 11 health kits, 190 personal care items, 897 school supplies for Jackson Center students, more than 30 school kits for NALC disaster response needs, and 36 completed quilts.

WOC will be collecting flood buckets for NALC Disaster Response Team again this year. Buckets will be delivered September 17th. There will be a list of supplies needed to be placed in the bucket. They are to be returned to the church by October 1st. Gently used shoes can also be donated and taken to JC Pharmacy.

We will again be collecting money for the Elizabeth New Life Center in Sidney. This agency provides much needed pregnancy and prenatal care. Baby bottles will be delivered on November 5th. They can be filled with change, dollar bills, or a check. They will be picked up November 15th. It was decided to use offering given at November general board meeting to go to the Elizabeth New Life Center.

It was decided that our offering of \$85.00 collected at this meeting will be put into the drapery fund.

Discussion will be continued on possibly revising roles, purpose, & need for mission growth & mission.

WOC will sponsor a local family for Christmas again this year. Darlene Woolley & Elsa Stengel agreed to shop for gifts. Marcia Davis made a motion to not exceed \$500. Seconded by Toni Leininger. Motion carried.

WOC will resume breakfasts for 3rd Sunday of month to apply to drapery fund. Circle 2 will start September 17th, Circle 3—October 15th, Circle 1—November 26th as the 19th is the Community Thanksgiving service. We will skip December & resume the 3rd Sunday of January & so on.

Mary Bates will be our speaker for Thankoffering Sunday.

Motion was made by Joyce Regula to use cookbooks left over from the anniversary celebration to add to kitchen bags we are collecting for NALC Disaster Response needs. Seconded by Cindy Davis. Motion carried. 33 kitchen kits were completed at this meeting.

Motion was made by Marcia Davis to sell cookbooks left over from the anniversary celebration at the community Thanksgiving Service & at the Christmas in the Village for \$5.00 each. Seconded by Joyce Regula. Motion carried. This money will go to the general fund.

Meeting was closed with everyone praying The Lord's Prayer.  
Submitted by Karen Hatfield, secretary

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## WOC October Collections

### **Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center**

**Hygiene Items:** Shampoo (1 gal. or small sizes), Body lotion, Deodorant, Body Soap, Hair gel, Hair brushes, combs, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes

**Clothes:** New Boxers or briefs- (L-3XL)

**School Supplies:** Pens, pencils, Crayons, markers, Notebook & construction paper, Paint (water colors)

**Gift cards:** Walmart, McDonalds, Dairy Queen & Wendy's.  
(Give to Marcia Davis)

Any questions please contact Marcia Davis, Chairperson.

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## WOC October Activities

Board Meeting October 11, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Thankoffering Sunday October 15, 2023

Decorations: Kathy Klopfenstein, Susan Ware, Joyce Regula & Traci Myers

Program: Linda Jenkins, Karen Hatfield, Marcia Davis

Toni Leininger, Chairperson

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## Announcements

**The Luther League** will be making the congregation a **delicious breakfast** on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> after the early service, which ends about 9:00 am. All donations will go to Chris and Rhonda Burch to help with medical and gas expenses. Continued prayers for Chris and this amazing family!

**CHICKEN FRY** Jackson Center American Legion Chicken Fry, October 7th 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. 627 East College Street. 1/2 chicken, French fries, coleslaw and roll \$ 10.00. Presale tickets available at J.C. Village office as well as the J.C. Pro Hardware. Also available the day of the fry at the legion. Drive thru only. PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR AMERICAN LEGION POST IN JACKSON CENTER.

**OPG Couples' Retreat** November 10-12, 2023 at Berlin Encore Hotel in Berlin, OH. Theme is Building Something Together Is Fun! For more information or to register at: <https://oneplusgod.regfox.com/couples-retreat-november-2023>

**Shaun Schneider will be ordained** as a Pastor of Word & Sacrament Ministry on Saturday, October 14th at 3:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. There will be a meal following. All are invited to attend. Please pray for him. Thank You!

**Disaster Relief Bucket.** If you didn't get a bucket for Disaster Relief to fill there are some available at the church by contacting Linda Jenkins at 937-622-2191. Please Return to church by Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

**The Backpack program** is asking for donations for the program. They are asking for fruit cups, applesauce cups, pudding cups and peanut butter cups, small individual boxes of cereal, & small individual microwave meal cups. There is a labeled box in the south vestibule for your donations.



# Grace @ Prayer

## Standing in the Need of Prayer

### Immediate Need of Prayers:

Marge Beam, Chris Burch, Martha Menzel,  
Starlett Clement

### Prayers for Military:

Kaiden Hinegardner,  
Aaron Reid

### Prayers for Long-Term Situations:

Doris Jean Frieders, Dwight Johnson, Adam Schulze, Tim Herndon, Mindy Steinbrunner, Emma Homan, Adam & Rochelle Langdon, Autumn Regula, Lisa Williams, Amy Grewe, Alex Poeppelman, Cliff Miller, Mike Clark, Paige Schneider, Logan Heath, Tony Hart, Bob Klopfenstein, Cindy Herndon, Dick Shaner, Gary Bankert, Penny Borchers

### Thank you's

So grateful to all of our friends at Grace who came and celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. Thank you for all of the cards & gifts and your many ways of caring. Years seem to fly by so fast... but friends and family always last.

God bless you all, Dick & Jane Wildermuth



## Being a Christian is like being a Pumpkin

God picks you from the patch and brings you in.

(John 15:16) You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.

Then washes all the dirt off of you.

(2 Corinthians 5:17) What this means is that those who become Christians, become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!

He opens you up and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.

(Romans 6:6) Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

Then He carves you a new smiling face.

(Psalm 71:23) I will shout for joy and sing your praises, for you have redeemed me. 0

And he puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see.

(Matthew 5:16) In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.



# NALC Convocation Highlights

## 2023 Convocation in Oklahoma City Aug 8-10

The theme for the convocation was Mission Dei, which means, "The Work and Mission of God!"

There were 224 lay delegates, 245 clergy, and 145 visitors for a total of 614 in attendance. There is some special energy being in a room with that many Christians. Each day there was 2 hour blocks that focused on domestic missions, international missions, and missions related to congregational life.

The NALC is very active and partners with many different missions, locally like the NALC Disaster Relief with Mary Bates, many Global missions like our mission for Tanzania, and congregational related programs like Life to Life and Fresh Eyes which is active here at Grace.

A global worker from Tanzania his name is Randy Stubbs and his 2 daughters provided music throughout the convocation. He went to Tanzania planning on staying for a year and he's been there several years training church musicians and pastors.

We enjoyed a banquet on Thurs night where they served all 600+ in the conference room.

Another highlight of our week was, or we felt it was a "God Moment" was when 2 young seminary students came and sat at our table. Luke is in his second year of seminary and his school friend Jackson also felt God's call to ministry. Then along came Ethan Zimmerman who was here at Grace on Sept 10, 2023. It is so refreshing to talk with them and see their desire to serve the Lord's calling.

One quote I really liked during the week was, "We cannot manipulate the work of God, but we can participate in the work of God!" May we all be diligent about spreading the Good News of our Lord and Savior!

Thanks for the opportunity to attend the convocation; it's truly a blessed and learning experience.

North American Lutheran Seminary is publishing a new magazine called "Word and Sacrament," it will be published bi-annually. A copy is on the back table and there is a QR code on the inside cover for anyone who would like to subscribe to it.

Upcoming events are, Aug 9, 2024 an online Convocation and on Aug 3-7, 2025 the next Convocation will be in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Submitted by Linda Jenkins

Thank you for the opportunity for us to attend the NALC Convocation. We learned so much about the NALC and its mission.

By belonging to the NALC we have a voice to vote for our representatives. The number of delegates for each church is based on how many members each church has. To vote, each voting delegate had a handheld electronic device to cast our votes. On Thursday afternoon we voted our first ballot for Bishop and other elected offices. Reverend Daniel Selbo was reelected for four more years as Bishop. Then on Friday morning, we had a second and third ballot to vote on amendments and issues.

Submitted by Joyce Regula

One of the highlights for Linda, Joyce and me, was the gathering on Tuesday of the Women of the NALC. Over 100 women from all over the United States, including one from Hawaii, and also one from Canada, spent the day together focusing on our one thing in common: Our love and service for our Lord Jesus.

The guest speaker was Rachel Rabor Norris, a potter from Texas. As she formed various pieces on her potter's wheel, she shared her personal testimony. As a teenager, she left her missionary parents' home in Japan and traveled into the darkness of drugs, alcohol, sex and an abusive marriage. Just as a potter can transform clay into a beautiful vessel, God never stopped pursuing her and eventually she experienced that transformation in her lowest moment. As she shared, she demonstrated on her wheel how one piece of clay can become many different things. We saw a beautiful pitcher become an even more beautiful and useful bowl, then a platter, demonstrating how God continually transforms us to reach our potential for the purpose He has for us.

There was not a dry eye in the room as we all experienced the love and power of the Holy Spirit. Thank you all for helping to allow us to spend a wonderful week with our brothers and sisters of the NALC.

Submitted by Kathy Klopfenstein





# October



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 18th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:00 am LL Breakfast 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 7:00 pm Creative Clovers 4-H	<b>2</b> 7:00 pm Circle 2  Joey Roberts	<b>3</b> 9:00 am-11:00 am Cleaning  Chris Burch	<b>4</b> 1:30 pm Circle 1 4:15 pm Mission Com. 6:15 pm-7:30 pm Gospel Gang 6:15 pm-7:45 pm Catechism 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>5</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band  Luke Davis	<b>6</b>  Tony Davis Tim Herndon	<b>7</b>
<b>8 19th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:00 am Worship w/ Choir 9:00 am Mission Breakfast 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 4:00 pm CAC Meeting  Susan Ware	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Susan Sadauskas	<b>11</b> 6:15 pm-7:45 pm Catechism 6:30 pm WOC Board Meeting  Grant Woolley Dana & Dianne Ware*	<b>12</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band  Marilyn Johnson Scott Schneider	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 20th Sunday after Pentecost Thankoffering Sunday</b> 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:15 am Quarterly Cong. Meeting 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm-7:00 pm Luther League  Aiden Stinebaugh Jerry & Kathy Metz*	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm Men's Group	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Circle 3  Kassie Ludwig	<b>18</b> 6:15 pm-7:45 pm Catechism 7:00 pm Choir Practice  Pat Davis	<b>19</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band  Beth Rockhold	<b>20</b>  Trent Platfoot	<b>21</b>  Xavier Monnin Emily Ratermann Spencer Serr Earl & Jill Ludwig*
<b>22 21st Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:00 am Worship w/ Choir 9:00 am WOC Breakfast 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion  Reagan Lotz Heather Barhorst	<b>23</b>  Marcia Holthaus	<b>24</b>  Ryan Woolley	<b>25</b> 6:15 pm-7:45 pm Catechism  Everly Koenig	<b>26</b> 5:30 pm Praise Band  Chris Stengel Mick & Nancy McNamee*	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  Shirley DeWeese
<b>29 Reformation Sunday</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 4:00 pm-5:30 pm Trunk or Treat Scott & Kathy Klopfenstein*	<b>30</b> 10:00 am- 3:00 pm FISH 7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting  Jim Oakley	<b>31</b>  Brian & Kathy Monnin*				

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## ***The Mission of Grace...***

***Glorify God***

***Reach Out To The Unchurched***

***Accept And Share God's Love***

***Come Together In His Name***

***Equip People to Reach Christlike Maturity***

# ***October, 2023***

## ***Happy Fall***



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