



GRACE MESSENGER

WORSHIP:

Sunday— 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Monday —7:00 p.m.

Sunday School & Bible Study—9:15 a.m.

PASTOR WITTES' MESSAGE

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, grace and peace to you, Amen.

I hope the past few months of summer have found you and your families well. I hope you've had the chance to find rest as a family, as an individual, and time to grow in your walk with the Savior. As September rolls around and for many this means time to "restart" and begin a school year or to shift away from the free relaxing days of summer vacation.



I'm writing to you as Pastor and Brother in Christ in this letter to encourage you to a restart, or better yet, a renewal in your life as a Lutheran Christian member of Grace. Do you know the last time you were blessed to be at the Lord's altar to be a part of the communion of saints? Have you missed time gathering together with your brothers and sisters in our community? I've noticed all too well how full our lives have become with distractions that do a very good job of chewing up the

valuable minutes and hours of our days. I can't believe how busy our lives feel.

I have to confess, in recent months I've heard talk amongst members at Grace. There are concerns about numbers and about whether our congregation is growing or heading in a fruitful direction. No doubt, an increased number of empty pews on Sunday has not escaped my own notice. I take all of this to heart. I want to encourage all of our congregation to give prayerful thought to a pair of hopes that I wish to share. One: I wish for us to be a people who see the glass half full. If we were a congregation that had opened a year ago with our size we would be overjoyed at the blessings God has put before us. And we should be overjoyed! Yet we fall into the temptation of thinking that because we have been bigger at times in our past that somehow we're doing something wrong today. That's not a healthy thought for us in the church. We are about the ministry of



(Pastor Witte's Message continued from page 1)

Christ, and that ministry is about growing the body of Christ, not just a congregation. If people young and old are growing in faith in our midst then we are successful and we should rejoice. I do believe that is happening each and every week, praise the Lord! If we, by the help of the Spirit, seek to put away negative thought and let the Spirit replace it with opportunity for love and ministry, then the body will grow.



Two: let us be renewed together with a unified and joint mission for the continued ministry at Grace. We don't just need to seek to be positive and refreshed in the Lord's work here, as I hope, we can be intentional in what that ministry should look like. At our May 2018 Voter's Meeting we adopted a new logo and motto for our congregation. The Board of Education spent several months and many hours in hard work and prayer bringing together this vision to make clear our congregation's identity and mission. The logo, as seen in the margin, will serve as a symbol of who Grace Lutheran is, what we stand for, and what we have to offer to the community. We pray this will be a positive way for the Monroe community and beyond to recognize us. The motto, "*Proclaiming God's grace through faith and love*", will remind us and guide us in our mission and what we are about as a congregation and members of the body of Christ.

I am inviting everyone in our congregation to be active this coming September, and beyond, in worship, Bible Study, and fellowship with one another. Beginning the weekends after Labor Day we will be using as theme in our worship and Bible Study Grace's new logo and motto and explaining from Scripture this renewed direction for us all. We also have a church picnic the first Sunday of this renewal, **September 9!** I do pray you will prioritize the time to join us in these opportunities to come. I want Grace to be a fruitful congregation of the Lord's *proclaiming God's grace through faith and love* for many more generations to come.

Blessings, Pastor

News about Our Members

July 16-August 15, 2018

Funerals

Janice H. Smith
July 16



September Anniversaries

Congratulations and prayers for Gods' continued blessings on those celebrating anniversaries this month:

- | | |
|---------|----------------------------|
| Sept. 5 | Allen & Lois Seitz |
| 6 | Robert & Melissa Roorcroft |
| 7 | Caleb & Katie Matthes |
| 10 | Fred & Helen Dowler |
| 14 | Mark & Lisa Sherrard |
| 16 | Scott & Dee Evans |
| 16 | Mark & Margaret Roebke |
| 18 | Jerry & Faye Stromberger |
| 23 | Don & Faye Blohm |
| 24 | Bryan & Mary Weber |
| 25 | Vince & Lynda Castiglione |
| 26 | Ryan & Marisa Cunningham |



"What God has joined together, let not man separate"

DEACON BOB AUXTER

Don't look now, but the time is fleeting, racing breakneck speed, and in many respects faster than you can keep up comfortably. That was my thought when I began to write this entry- it can't be Fall already! Really?

I am confident that I am not alone in this thinking. Labor Day celebration- that unspoken signal that Summer is at an end, is either at hand or behind us. Schools starting up again. A couple of favorite holidays on the horizon. Then the season of Advent, quickly leading up to Christmas Day, swiftly followed by the end of yet another year.

And lo and behold our list of 'to do' has several items without a 'done-that' check mark or a line out through them. Then there is that horrid list of yesterday's blunders and sins and spiritual laziness and the crystal-clear evidences of our missing the mark. Our present enjoyment of God's grace tends to be lessened by the memory and stark realization of those two lists and more. What to do?

Look up Isaiah 52:12. Read through it several times- let it sink in. Good stuff!! God is saying to us to enter each of the remaining days with joy, with peace, with the anticipation of yet accomplishing His Will by His power and the indwelling of His Spirit. Entering each day not in a hurry or as if in flight for our lives, but rather following His gentle walk, that of our Good Shepherd, for His yoke is easy, His burden light. Only He knows the way.



Our Savior, Jesus, is God of not just the future, but God of all ages, of time measured, beginning to end, and time unmeasured, eternity. He walks with and before us- as our point-guard, our '12', and as our rear-guard also, our '6'. And beyond that He is our '24', the guard and protector of all points of the compass and of all times. Day in. Day out. Year after year after year.

We have been given this gift of overwhelming peace that surpasses all human understanding that reveals the security of His Presence. In the past- the memory of which He fashions into a ministry of spiritual growth and the development of a rock-solid security for the present. In the present- the God of Peace and Forgiveness and Restoration transforms all of yesterday's irreversible and broken things and missed opportunities into a constructive thoughtfulness for His Will, a healing and washing of enabling for servanthood for the day. In the future- His gracious revelation informs us that He truly is Sovereign over all things and eternity, everything being worked for our ultimate good, and for the glory, honor, and praise of His Holy Name.

Trust the remainder of this year and the days to come, not just some of them, but all of them, to the Word and Will of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

From Psalm 121: *"From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore."*

There is a remnant of 2018 to yet live and experience. My prayer for you is that you boldly step out with joy and peace and thankfulness and praise into the invincible future with, by, and IN CHRIST!! Amen? Amen.

Deacon Bob Auxter

ELDER-TONY CASTIGLIONE

The Helping Hands Account

What is it? How is it used? Who has access to it? Can helping others help you find meaning in life? *“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”* Matthew 5:16

New research is finding that being kind and giving to others can make our lives feel more meaningful. The idea that helping others is part of a meaningful life has been around for thousands of years. Aristotle wrote that finding happiness and fulfillment is achieved “by loving rather than in being loved”. According to the psychologist Carol Ryff, who reviewed the writings of numerous philosophers throughout history, relationships with others are “a central feature of a positive, well-lived life.” Yet today many of us seem to be struggling to find meaning by gathering up achievements, spending so much time at work and other events that we’re cut off from other people. Are we heading down the wrong path? New research is providing more and more evidence that kind and helpful behavior causes us to feel that our lives are meaningful, and discovering what we can do to reap those benefits. (Source: Greater Good Magazine- By Elizabeth Hooper)

The Helping Hands Account at Grace is a fund that in many ways the Elders can access to help others in the congregation. In almost all cases the need is urgent and very direct for the individual or family. The need may be a financial setback where a utility is paid or a household item purchased. Clothes can also be provided. It can be used at special times of the year to make God’s love and grace known as we care for others. The individual or family and the nature of the need along with the amount is always kept confidential. The Elders would like to thank all who have graciously supported this fund over the years. We also thank all those who may give in the future to this fund. We pray that in all circumstances God’s gifts are always used to glorify Him. “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive”. Acts 20:35

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for such sacrifices God is pleased.” Hebrews 13:16
We are truly blessed!

In Christ Service,

Tony Castiglione, Elder



Take
Note

WEEKDAY SCHOOL CHANGES

After discussions with our weekday school families, the decision was made to change weekday school from Wednesdays to **Tuesdays**. Weekday school will start on **Tuesday, September 4** at 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with Pastor Witte or Sarah.

CRAFTERS WANTED

Grace Youth Group

ARTS & CRAFTS



9 a.m.—3 p.m.
Held at
Grace Lutheran Church
in the Gym

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

\$20/one table ~ \$35/two tables

Set-up at 8:00 a.m.

*Registration forms available by contacting
Sarah Witte 734-242-1401*

September Birthdays

Friends of Grace celebrating birthdays this month.

If yours isn't listed, we may not have it in our records. Contact the Church Office and we will gladly include it.

God's blessings and happy birthday!

1	Art Miller 	12	Jonathan Moore
	Bonnie Sorter	13	Carrie Roorcroft 
2	Karen Kasper	15	Emily Rogers
	Heather Ott		Gene Swatek
3	Steve Sowatsky 		Chris Zarecki
4	Sarah Roorcroft	18	Bev Gessner
5	Dan Harmon		Dale Mitchell 
	Krystal Rose	20	Cheryl Beilman
	Jessica Skeens	21	David Downton
6	Jon Bunge	23	Tyler Schmidt
7	Fred A. Bastianelli	25	Abigail Ott 
8	Jeth Ott 		Hal Schmidt 
	Lisa Sowatsky	26	Jakob Lentz
9	Maryjean Amolsch		Brenda Rivet
	Pat Amolsch	27	Kathy Schwartz
10	Olivia Ott 	28	Garrett Carter
	Jim Rivet	29	Stacy Wigman
11	Abby Castiglione		

September Baptism Birthdays

1	William Guenther Richard Schmidt Rollin Webb
2	Arlette Schoof
5	Arthur Miller
8	Maryjean Amolsch
15	Christine O'Leary David Smith
20	Carolyn (Kruger) Cornell Nathan Foster
23	Yvonne Haman Sarah Witte
25	Kara Robbins
27	Annalyse Auxter Zechariah Yentz
28	Kathy Berry
29	Fred A. Bastianelli Lisa Sowatsky
30	Steve Sowatsky

BIBLE STUDIES

IMPACT Prime Time For all 9th grade through young adult-aged youth and friends on **MONDAYS** at 8 p.m.

Ladies' Bible Study The ladies will meet every **Monday** starting **September 24 at 1:00 p.m.** at Grace in the classroom. They will be studying Andy Stanley's, "Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith."

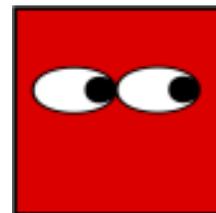
Weekday School Christian Education classes for children in **Grades 3 – 8** from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. on **Tuesdays**. **Note: Change of day**

Thursday Morning Adult Bible Class Meets weekly at 9:30 a.m. in the Classroom. **Begins September 6.**

Adult Information Class ~ Scheduled *as requested*. Basic classes in the Christian faith. Contact Pastor Witte or the Church Office for more information.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Our Youth Ministry program is



looking for you! We are in need of a second adult to join us for youth activities, including Sunday

School and events. If you can help, even if it's not all the time, we'd love to have you. You do not have to be at everything. Please speak with Sarah, if you are interested.

Grace Lutheran Church
 630 N. Monroe St. ~ Monroe, MI 48162
 (734) 242-1401
 E-mail: church@gracelutheranmonroe.org
 www.gracelutheranmonroe.org

September 2018

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	8:00 a Worship/Comm 9:15 a S.School/Bible Study 10:30 a Worship	3  NO Worship	4 5:30 p Weekday Schl	5 7:00 p Boy Scouts	6 9:30 a Bible Study 12:30 p Ladies Society 5-7 p Men's BBall 5:45 p Handbells	7	1
9	8:00 a Worship 9:15 a S.School/Bible Study 10:30 a Worship/Comm 12:30 p Church Picnic @ Frenchtown Park, Vivian Rd. (Following the 10:30 a.m. service)	10 5:00 p Men's BBall 5:30 p Golf-Dundee 7:00 p Worship 8:00 p IMPACT	11 5:30 p Weekday Schl 6:00 p Men's Club	12 7:00 p Boy Scouts	13 9:30 a Bible Study 5-7 p Men's BBall 5:45 p Handbells 7:30 p Choir	14 7:00 p Super Youth	15 9:00 a One Sheep Ministries Cook
16	8:00 a Worship/Comm 9:15 a S.School/Bible Study 10:30 a Worship	17 5:00 p Men's BBall 5:30 p Golf-Dundee 7:00 p Worship 8:00 p IMPACT	18 5:30 p Weekday Schl 7:00 p Church Council	19 6:00 p Cub Scouts 7:00 p Boy Scouts	20 9:30 a Bible Study 5-7 p Men's BBall 5:45 p Handbells 7:30 p Choir	21	22
23	8:00 a Worship 9:15 a S.School/Bible Study 10:30 a Worship/Comm	24 1:00 p Ladies Study 5:00 p Men's BBall 5:30 p Golf-Dundee 7:00 p Worship	25 5:30 p Weekday Schl	26 6:00 p Cub Scouts 7:00 p Boy Scouts	27 9:30 a Bible Study 5-7 p Men's BBall 5:45 p Handbells	28	29
30	8:00 a Worship 9:15 a S.School/Bible Study 10:30 a Worship				Dates are subjected to change, please check online calendar at www.graceluthera	*If you would like to attend a Board meeting, please contact a board member for date	

Grace Lutheran Church
630 N. Monroe Street
Monroe, MI 48162-2935

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Requested delivery date: August 30, 2018

*Please help us save mailing costs by
notifying us of address changes.*



THE MESSENGER

Church Picnic

Join us for Grace Family Picnic. This is our time as a church for food and fun for all ages. Bring a lawn chair and a dish to pass. Meat will be provided. Drinks will be sold by the youth. We would love to see you at Frenchtown Charter Park on Vivian Road

September 9 around 12:30 p.m. (following the 10:30 a.m. service) . Please let us know if you are coming by signing the sheet in the church office, so we can get an idea of how much food to plan.



GRACE'S UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 3 Labor Day-Office Closed
NO Worship

September 4 Weekday School begins
on new day, Tuesdays

September 9 Church Picnic @
Frenchtown Park,
Vivian Road

