

## CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.

In accordance with C9.01 and C10.02 of the Grace Constitution, the Grace Council has called a Special Congregation Meeting to take place on Sunday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, after worship, for the purpose of considering the issuance of a 3-year, part-time term call to Pastor Jaci Tiell

(for more information turn to page 4)

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## OPERATION OREO.

Please keep all of the military in your prayers, but especially: SGT Stephen Simkus and Cadet Julian Sanchez.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to Operation Oreo to help offset the cost of shipping and also the contents of the Goody boxes -- Just mark "Op Oreo" on the memo line of your check.

If you have a name to add to our list or if you have any questions about Operation Oreo, please contact Jennifer Marquardt.

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*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God*

*Hebrews 13:16*



Greetings in the name of Christ,

Summer is finally beginning for many of us with the ending of the school year. It's been a difficult year for the majority of us as we have continued to press on amidst the covid 19 pandemic. It seems as if things are finally improving as restrictions are lifted. But as a congregation we still ought to be mindful of those not yet vaccinated including the vulnerable among us. Namely those who aren't yet vaccinated due to health issues or our children. And so, it's a time for the church to still exercise caution and be mindful of our neighbors and respect the decisions of those we might disagree with.

Summer is also a time when we are more excited to get together and have fellowship. Pentecost Sunday was a great celebration and the fellowship we had with one another was much needed. I look forward to these summer months when we can experience more opportunities for fellowship with one another in ways that people feel comfortable with.

I'm excited to see where God leads Grace in 2021 and beyond. This year has to be better than the last. I have been proud to lead and be part of the Grace community during this past year and see the ways that everyone has been willing to be flexible. The congregation has been not only flexible but has stepped up to help out in new ways of being the church and also been willing to go along with some crazy ideas from this slightly crazy pastor. I am grateful for your willingness and participation. I am grateful for the council committed to being mindful of the safety and well being of the congregation and community while still providing meaningful worship. This has been a tough year but also a good one.

If you have any pastoral care needs or prayer requests please let me know. You can reach me by phone at 419-215-8370 or email at [pastorjaciell@aol.com](mailto:pastorjaciell@aol.com)

In Christ,

*Pastor Jaci*



## June Birthdays

Tammie Duncan	1
Madilyn Scheff	3
Colin Duncan	8
Cora Lajti	8
Stephen Simkus	11
Jean Wietelmann	14
Connie Wolfe	14
Megan Marik	17
Dean Crandall	20
Joshua Wolfe	22
Aiden Cordy	27

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## Happy Anniversary

Bill/Judy Zimmerman	2
Greg/LaVerne Edwards	10
Karen/Joe Hammel	27

*Congratulations* to all those listed. If we have missed anyone we apologize. Please notify the office with those names, so we can update our records. Thank You!

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## June Gospel Readings...

June 6 -	Mark 3: 20-35
June 13 -	Mark 4: 26-34
June 20-	Mark 4: 35-41
June 27-	Mark 5: 21-43

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## June's Food Pantry Item:

Crackers - 16 oz. box

## July's Food Pantry Item:

Soup 10 oz. can



## Blessings for Travelers

O God, Protect and guide all who travel this summer. Make our ways safe and our home-comings joyful, and bring us at least to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ and the life-giving Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Student - Led Movements in SLOVENIA

### Working With Scope Network

One of my (Zina) responsibilities this year has been working with our regions Scope Network Team, which aims to help staff across Central and Eastern Europe reach students and universities outside their city. This semester, the team started to do monthly zoom calls with staff and volunteers so they can connect and pray together, as well as share tips and ideas.

This month we had Panel Discussion that was absolutely inspiring and refreshing. We had 7 Volunteers from Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Spain, and Romania and grilled them with questions to learn from their experience and understand how to equip them better.

A few questions we asked were "What motivates you to commit your time to reaching students and mobilizing them to share the Gospel?" and "How do you and other volunteers overcome the challenge of students being very busy and involved in many things?" I personally was reminded that this generation is changing so much and the best people to reach them are these exact students, their peers who know, follow, and love Jesus, and even when they are busy and studying most of the time, they are burdened to share Him with their classmates.

A group of 28 students & staff from Eastern Europe speaking back and forth English and Russian joined us and was a great time to learn, connect and pray together for movements on every campus. This spring/summer Cru is going through some restructuring and Eastern & Western Europe regions and will become one Cru region. And for Scope Network, this means we will be collaborating with more staff, students and volunteers in even more countries. We are excited and are already coming up with ideas for projects that will serve everyone by sharing vision, tools, and practices that will help staff and volunteers launch & build student movements on every campus.

As we mentioned in our previous letter, we will be coming to the US for the summer to visit with you, share stories of how God has been working, and to raise some additional funds to allow us to continue to work and serve in Slovenia for the gospel. Our first stop will be Ohio, and we will be contacting you soon to begin to set up meetings. We want to be sensitive to the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, and if you would prefer a virtual meeting with us, please just ask. We are really excited to meet with you, and for you to meet Ari! You are and have been a significant part of our ministry and family, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

With Love from Jay, Zina & Ari Herman

#### The Values We Share...

**Worship weekly. Invite others to join us. Embrace one another. Keep on learning.  
Give regularly and generously.  
Be good stewards and willing servants.**

## World Elder Abuse Awareness

### Wreaths Across America Fund-raiser.

The raffle to benefit Wreaths across America – Ottawa County continues. Funds raised will be used to purchase the wreaths that will be laid on veteran's graves in December. First prize is a Yeti cooler filled with spirits, valued over \$800. Second prize is an Adirondack chair and side table, valued over \$300. Third prize is a Put in Bay package valued over \$200.

Tickets are **\$10 each or 3 for \$25**. Tickets may be purchased from John Heminger, at **Portage Inn** in Elmore or **Rayz Café** in Genoa. Winning tickets will be drawn on or about July 1<sup>st</sup>.



### Pastoral Care...

In the event of a need for pastoral support or care, please contact Pastor Jaci Tiell 419-215-8370 or [pastorjaciell@aol.com](mailto:pastorjaciell@aol.com)

The Ottawa County Task Force on Aging is bringing awareness to World Elder Abuse during the month of June. Every day 10,000 people turn 65 in the US. And that trend is going to continue for nearly the next 20 years. At the same time that the population is growing, a startling number of elders face abusive conditions. Every year an estimated 5 million Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Experts believe that for every case of elder abuse or neglect reported, as many as 23.5 cases go unreported. In the latest statics from Miami University Scripps Gerontology Center, Ohio 60+ population by county from 2020—Ottawa County was at number one at 33.3%: followed by Monroe and Erie, putting our county at higher risk.

*What is elder abuse?* Elder abuse is the intentional or negligent acts by a caregiver or trusted individual that causes harm to a vulnerable elder. The most common categories of abuse are: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse and exploitation, emotional or psychological abuse, abandonment, and self-neglect. *Who is at risk?* It can happen to anyone—a loved one, a neighbor and us when old enough. It affects seniors across all socio-economic groups, cultures, and races. It can happen in a person's home or in public, in a nursing home, assisted living facilities, and in hospitals. More women and "older" (80 and over) are more likely to be victimized and mistreated by the victim's own family members. *What can one person do?* Use your voice to raise awareness about elder abuse. Turn your Facebook photo purple on **June 15th**, engage social media, wear a purple awareness ribbon, talk to kids in your life about the challenges that our elders face, visit an elderly person that is isolated, living alone, or in a care facility and think about ways that you can honor your parents, grandparents or disabled family members. **Join us June 15th** to commemorate Elder Abuse Day. This holiday provides an opportunity for our community to live the principles of our faith. Reach out to the older adults in your life and check on their wellbeing.

### Deacon Schedule for June & July

#### JUNE

- 6/6/2021 Mark & Jennifer Haar  
6/13/2021 Gary Anderson & Randy Jacobs  
6/20/2021 Jean & Merlyn Weng  
6/27/2021 Rachel Beeler & Joan Eckerman

#### JULY

- 7/4/2021 Deb & Jeff Boos  
7/11/2021 Mary & Mike Schlievert  
7/18/2021 Joan Eckerman & Randy Jacobs  
7/25/2021 Rachel Beeler & Dave Wietelmann

President's report...

## A NEW PASTORAL LEADERSHIP PLAN FOR GRACE

In September 2019, two weeks after Pastor Mark's departure, Pastor Jaci Tiell came to Grace as our part-time Interim Pastor. Pastor Jaci's pastoral ministry at Grace has resonated with Grace's members and many have asked whether it would be possible for Grace to have Pastor Jaci as its called Pastor. We can now report exciting new developments that may make this hope a reality.

**Grace's Discernment Process.** Grace's quest to call a new Pastor started with a purposeful "discernment process." In early 2020, Grace conducted three Congregational Discovery Sessions involving the whole congregation (a fourth session was cancelled due to covid). Those conversations engaged us in an intense study of Grace's mission, pastoral needs and financial capabilities. Grace's discernment process and the experiences of having a part-time Pastor for the past 20 months have yielded some important conclusions:

Grace is a relatively small congregation, and a part-time Pastor has been able to meet this congregation's pastoral needs. Many Grace's members also stepped forward to help make a part-time pastorate work by performing several important church functions.

With a half-time pastoral compensation package, Grace's budgetary bottom line changed from red ink to black ink. Maintenance Fund borrowing was repaid. Grace ended 2019 and 2020 with small surpluses and will do so again in 2021. A part-time pastorate enabled Grace to achieve financial stability.

Our Congregational Discovery Sessions helped us understand how Grace continues to be a viable ELCA Lutheran congregation with an active, dedicated membership and a real mission to serve the Grace parish and a larger world of those in need.

The Grace Council nominated a Call Committee of six persons that was unanimously elected by the Congregation in August 2020. The Committee met multiple times to develop Grace's Ministry Site Profile (MSP). They concluded that Grace should seek a called Pastor who serves on a part-time basis or in a pastorate shared with another church.

**A New Pastoral Leadership Plan for Grace and Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Toledo).** Grace's quest for a called Pastor has now coalesced into a real possibility that Grace will be able to call Pastor Jaci Tiell as its called Pastor. Two churches, Grace ELC, and Bethlehem Lutheran in East Toledo have come together in a plan that would have Pastor Jaci serve both churches, each on a 15 hour-a-week part-time basis. A key part in this plan work is that on one Sunday each month Pastor Jaci would be free to attend worship, with her family, in her home church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Both churches would have worship conducted by supply pastors on those days. On all other Sundays of each month and on special worship days, Pastor Jaci would conduct worship at both churches. The two churches will need to compromise on worship times--initial plans for this summer call for Bethlehem worship to start at 9:00 AM and Grace services to start at 10:30 AM. Pastor Jaci will be taking on increased responsibilities by conducting two worship services each week, and by providing pastoral ministry (hospital calls, shut-in ministry, weddings, funerals, pastoral counseling, etc.) for two congregations. We've discussed this with Pastor Jaci, and she is enthusiastic about being able to fulfill these expanded responsibilities in her ministry, while still meeting her duties to her family.

The Grace Call Committee has prayerfully considered this plan and enthusiastically endorsed it. In their most recent meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, the Call Committee unanimously approved this motion:

**That the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Call Committee, duly elected by the Grace ELC congregation on 30 August 2020, after faithfully and prayerfully considering Grace ELC's pastoral leadership requirements and possibilities, and after consultation with the office of the Synod Bishop, unanimously recommends that the Grace Congregation approve a three-year part-time term call to Pastor Jaci Tiell, an ordained and rostered ELCA Pastor, to serve as Grace ELC's Pastor. The committee understands that this would be a dual call and that Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio, is also prepared to issue a similar three-year part-time term contract to Pastor Tiell.**

**Grace Council Action and Call for a Congregational Meeting.** That same evening, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, the Call Committee submitted their recommendation to the Council. After discussion and further consideration, the Council approved this motion:

**That the Call Committee recommendation to issue a 3-year part-time term call to Pastor Jaci Tiell is accepted and endorsed by the Council and that a special Congregational Meeting be called on Sunday, 20 June 2021, for the purpose of deciding to call Pastor Tiell as Grace's Pastor.**

This plan has been reviewed by the Synod (NWOS), which is encouraging both churches to move forward with the plan, with Grace issuing a 3-year part-time Term Call to Pastor Jaci and with Bethlehem contracting with Pastor Jaci for this same pastoral services. Both Grace's Call and Bethlehem's contract require congregational approvals. If both congregations approve, the tentative start date would be the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

This is an innovative plan for providing pastoral leadership to two ELCA congregations whose pastoral leadership needs can be fulfilled by a part-time Pastor. An added benefit for Grace would be establishing a relationship with an East Toledo church where sharing outreach ministries and fellowship could be beneficial to both. We agreed to start with a "Term Call" to give us time to learn how well this plan will work, for Pastor Jaci, for Bethlehem and for Grace. ELCA provisions for Term Calls require annual reviews to evaluate how well the plan is working and, by the third year, making a final decision on whether this is a long-term solution for both churches.

**Making Decisions and Moving Forward.** Several actions need to take place in the next few weeks to make this plan become a reality:

**Grace will have a congregation meeting after worship on Sunday, 20 June,** to vote on calling Pastor Jaci to a 3-year part-time term call. The Bethlehem congregation will meet on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June to vote on this call.

**A cooperative relationship between the two churches** needs to be developed. Council Presidents Ed Pavuk and Gary Anderson have already had one very positive meeting to initiate this process.

**Pastoral compensation plans** for the two churches must be developed in cooperation with the Synod. These plans will be part of the decision package that will be presented to the two congregations.

**Letters of Agreement** for the Call (Grace) and Contract (Bethlehem) must be drafted so that they too can be part of the decision package presented to the two congregations.

As Lutherans, we believe the Holy Spirit actively participates with the congregations and Synod in the process of calling a Pastor. We trust that the Holy Spirit has been engaged in the unfolding of this plan and that the Spirit will guide us to a conclusion that reflects God's will for Pastor Jaci and her family, for Bethlehem Lutheran Church and for Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

If anyone has questions or comments about any aspect of this plan, they should contact Amy Simkus or Matthew Haar, Co-Chairs of the Grace Call Committee, or Gary Anderson, Council President.

Gary Anderson  
Council President



CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

## ***Council Highlights...***

The May 19, 2021 Grace Lutheran Church council meeting was brought to order by the President, Gary Anderson.

The secretary's report from April was approved. The April financial report was approved.

Audit Committee Report – Mike Schlievert and Jennifer Marquardt were on the Audit Committee and found that the books were in order. A motion was made by Mary, second Randy, to accept the audit report.

\*Call Committee Report – Reported by Amy Simkus

The Call Committee met prior to the Council meeting and unanimously adopted a motion regarding Grace's pastoral leadership which they submitted to the Council. The Call Committee recommended that Pastor Jaci be issued a three-year, part-time term call to be Grace's called Pastor (her status would change from Interim Pastor to Called Pastor). The Call Committee motion reads as follows:

That the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Call Committee, duly elected by the Grace ELC congregation on 30 August 2020, after faithfully and prayerfully considering Grace ELC's pastoral leadership requirements and possibilities, and after consultation with the office of the Synod Bishop, unanimously recommends that the Grace Congregation approve a three-year part-time term call to Pastor Jaci Tiell, an ordained and rostered ELCA Pastor, to serve as Grace ELC's Pastor. The committee understands that this would be a dual call and that Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio, is also prepared to issue a similar three-year part-time term call to Pastor Tiell.

The following motion was made by Rachel, seconded by Mary, to accept the Call Committee's recommendation:

That the unanimous recommendation of the Call Committee to issue a 3-year term part-time call to Pastor Jaci Tiell is accepted and endorsed by the Council and that a Special Congregational Meeting be called on Sunday, 20 June 2021, for the purpose of deciding to call Pastor Tiell as Grace's Pastor.

The motion was approved.

Gary informed the Council that he will proceed with announcing the call for the congregation meeting, meet with the Council President at Bethlehem to initiate relations with them and will work with Synod to revise Pastor Jaci's compensation package and prepare a new Letter of Agreement that will be included in the call proposal to be submitted to the congregation for their vote on June 20th.

Board of Congregational Life – Reported by Mary Schlievert

\*\*Father's Day, June 20th, there will be a delightful treat for all the dads at worship.

\*In September, there will be an ice cream party in conjunction with Rally Day and God's Work/Our Hands activities.

The Board's Current To Do List (Old Business):

\*Check with other churches regarding funeral meals \*Obtain point people to organize funeral meals \*Formalize a cost sheet for funerals for members vs. non-members\*Check on Dartball entry fee \*Conduct an interest survey – Fall The next meeting will be Thursday, August 5 at 7 pm in the church parking lot in lawn chairs, socially distanced. \*In July, we will have a Parking Lot Popsicle Parish Party and Pre-teen Portrait Painting with Pastels.

Board of Education – Reported by Nancy Pries

\*Cake and/or cookies will be provided for the confirmands on Confirmation Sunday.

\*The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in Minneapolis in July, 2022; if there are any youth who wish to attend, planning needs to start now.

(Council highlights continued)

Board of Witness and Mission – Reported by Amy Simkus

The Board is asking for Special Offering from now through May 31 to support a special ELCA Covid Relief Appeal for India and Nepal. Covid has overwhelmed health care facilities in India and Nepal. Oxygen equipment is in extremely short supply. Our goal is to raise \$1000 by May 31 to help with this grave need. Funds contributed by Grace’s members will be added to \$350 from Grace’s Mission Response Fund and will be divided equally between Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response appeals to support covid relief in India and Nepal.

Board of Property – Reported by Steve Simkus

\*Thanks to those who helped with the work day. One hundred fifty bags of mulch were distributed around the property.

\*The parsonage roof was inspected.

\*The cost of the bell tower repair was reduced by \$1350. We were able to use the old solenoid on the clapper (the part that makes the bell strike) that had been stored in the basement.

\*The HVAC system was inspected.

Pastor’s Report – Reported by Pastor Jaci

\*A special service is being planned for Sunday, May 23 – Pentecost Sunday. We will re-dedicate the bell tower and we will celebrate the confirmation of Brady Buhrow and Eve Jackson.

A motion was made by Nancy, second Amy, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting concluded with The Lord’s Prayer.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on June 17, 2021 at 7 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

*Karen Hammel, Secretary*

**WEEKLY OFFERING 2021**

	Week 1	\$2,375.00	Week 2	\$2,207.00
	Week 3	\$2,569.00	Week 4	\$9,917.00
	Week 5	No worship	Week 6	\$7,769.00
	Week 7	\$7,111.00	Week 8	\$1,490.00
<i>Gracious God, we offer you the fruits</i>	Week 9	\$3,146.00	Week 10	\$2,913.00
<i>Of our time, talents and resources</i>	Week 11	\$1,800.00	Week 12	\$3,069.00
<i>In celebration of all that we have been</i>	Week 13	\$952.00	Week 14	\$3,440.35
<i>Given.</i>	Week 15	\$2,579.00	Week 16	\$1,987.00
	Week 17	\$1,432.00	Week 18	\$2,487.00
	Week 19	\$1,610.00	Week 20	\$2,309.00
	Week 21	\$1,787.00		
			<b>Total</b>	\$62,949.35



**Needed from Offering for 2021** \$150,000    **Budget Gap** (\$87,050.65)  
**Weekly Goal** \$2,884    **Avg. Week** \$2,997

# June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>The way to have a better tomorrow is to start working on it today.</i></p>		<p>1</p> <p>11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution 5:30pm - Property Board Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p><b>Second Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10a - Parking Lot Worship</p> <p>2:00pm– Graduation @ Woodmore High School</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution</p> <p>4:30pm– Witness &amp; Mission Board</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10a - ESC 11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Timbrook Family Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>13</p> <p><b>Third Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>10a- Parking lot Worship</p>	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution</p> <p>7pm– Council via ZOOM</p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>Food Pantry 9:00 - Noon</b></p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>Food Pantry 9:00 - Noon</b></p>
<p>20</p> <p><b>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10a - Parking Lot Worship</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p><b>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10a - Worship</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>11:30-Noon Grab n Go Meal Distribution</p>		