

The Grace Family Weekly Message

16 September 2021



PLAN TO WORSHIP AT GRACE THIS SUNDAY, THE 19th of SEPTEMBER. The Gospel reading for Sunday is Mark 9:30-37. Worship will take place in the Fellowship Hall.
(See pages 2 & 3 for more information about worship at Grace)

- **Worship this coming Sunday, the 19th of September, will take place in the Grace Fellowship Hall.**
- **Worship on the following Sunday, the 26th of September, will take place in the Grace sanctuary. The baptism of Mia Pirkel will take place during that service.** *(See pages 3 & 4 for more information)*
- **Tickets (\$9.00 each) and sign-up sheets will be available on Sunday for the October 3rd Chicken BBQ** *(see pages 5 & 6 for more information)*

A BIBLE STUDY ON THE APOSTLES' CREED – PART I

*This week's Bible Study continues a recent series of study themes that are based on Martin Luther's **Shorter Catechism**. This discussion looks at part I of the Apostles' Creed and how Luther and we might interpret it.*

THE CREED: I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

Genesis 1:1. *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

Psalms 90:2. *Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.*

Revelation 4:11. *You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.*

Luther's SHORTER CATECHISM – THE CREED, on God and creation

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

What is this? or What does this mean?

I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties. In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property—along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve, and obey him. This is most certainly true.

A creed is a formal statement of Christian belief. Each Sunday during worship we join with Christians around the world to reaffirm what we believe by reciting either the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed. The longer Nicene Creed is used during Advent, Christmas, Easter and on festival days. The Apostles Creed is used during Lent and at other times during the Christian year. Legend said the apostles themselves wrote the Apostles' Creed, but there is no evidence of that. The Apostles' Creed as we know it today, first appeared in the 8th century, although similar versions or parts of this Creed were used in worship as early as the second century A. D.

The trinitarian structure of the Creed (Father-Son-Holy Spirit) was used in the early Christian Church in the rite of baptism. Candidates for baptism in the second and third centuries were asked to affirm their belief in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Today, in the ELCA liturgy for Holy Baptism, a question-and-answer form of the Apostle's Creed is used so parents, sponsors, and the entire congregation can profess their faith on behalf of the infant being baptized.

The Apostles' Creed begins with the most fundamental of all affirmations: "***I BELIEVE IN GOD.***" It continues by saying three things we believe about God. God is the ***FATHER*** of all living creatures. God is ***ALMIGHTY*** or all powerful. God is the ***CREATOR*** of the universe.

Affirmations of God the Creator are found all over the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. The very first verse in the Bible identifies God as the Creator of the universe. Psalm 90 is just one of many tributes to God the Creator in the Psalms. And in Revelation, at the end of the Bible, we are again called to give "***glory and honor***" to God who "***created all things.***"

Martin Luther's view of God in the ***Shorter Catechism*** begins with a personal witness: "*God has created me.*" If we say with Luther that "*I am God's creation,*" what does that say about how we should live our lives? Luther's explanation of this part of the Creed emphasizes how God protects us and provides all that we need, including food, clothing, spouse, domestic security, and income producing property. Luther goes on to explain how God does all this for us "*out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all.*" Luther concludes by saying that all we must do is "*thank and praise, serve, and obey him.*" Luther's teaching about grace alone (Sola Gratia) comes shining through in this explanation.

On Sunday, when we say the Apostles' Creed together again, try to think for a moment about what it means to say, "***I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.***" Remember God's artistry in the last beautiful sunset you saw. Or consider the complexity of nature. How does a spider know how to spin her web? How does a young robin know how to make a specific type of nest? How do monarch butterflies manage migrations to and from overwintering sites in Mexico? Or most breathtaking of all, consider the vastness of the universe. Think about how scientists have now discovered light from a star that is nine billion light years away. The magnitude of God's creation is beyond comprehension.

The Apostles' Creed says we believe there is a creator God who does all these magnificent things. We in all humility can only respond with awe, wonder, thankfulness, and worship. Martin Luther said, "*this is most certainly true.*" There is nothing more that we can say.

WEEKLY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

- © **WORSHIP ON SUNDAY.** Worship this Sunday, the 19th of September, the fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, will be in Grace's Fellowship Hall, starting at 10:30 AM. Pastor Jaci and Church Musician Bobbie Bean will conduct the service. This Sunday's Gospel reading is Mark 9:30-37.
- © **WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING ALL MEMBERS OF THE GRACE FAMILY TO WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY! VISITORS ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME.** Please note the following special information:
- **Worshipping in Your Car.** *Anyone who does not wish to attend worship in the sanctuary, may worship while remaining in their cars. Grace worship services are broadcast on FM 94.1. Parking places are reserved for those who remain in their vehicles in front of the north (office) entrance. If you plan to worship while remaining in your vehicle, please park by that entrance so Pastor Jaci can find you during communion.*
 - **Mask wearing is optional.** *Mask wearing is currently not required at Grace, but with the resurgence of covid in many areas, the CDC is encouraging even those who are vaccinated to wear masks for indoor gatherings. Anyone who wishes to wear a mask while worshipping at Grace is certainly encouraged to do so.*
- © **BAPTISM ON 26 SEPTEMBER.** The baptism of Mia Pirkel, infant daughter of Tim and Rebecca Pirkel, granddaughter of Mark and Jen Haar, and great-granddaughter of Merle and Ruth Haar, will take place during the worship service on the 26th of September. This worship service will take place in the Grace sanctuary.
- Health precautions being followed in the Fellowship Hall will continue. They include socially distanced seating in every other pew, optional mask wearing, stationary offering, stationary passing of the peace, and communion in your pews. Broadcasting on 94.1 FM will continue for those who wish to worship in their vehicles. Please park in front of the main church entrance if you wish to remain in your vehicle.
- We don't know yet whether this will be a permanent move back to the sanctuary. Grace's traditional move from the Fellowship Hall back to the sanctuary has been in September, but with the uncertainty of the covid epidemic, we will see how worship in the sanctuary goes and then determine what is best. In that regard, your feedback to Pastor, or to any member of the Council would be helpful.
- © **INVITATION TO PASTOR JOHN MORRIS ORDINATION CELEBRATION.** Everyone at Grace is invited to attend the celebration of Pastor John Morris' 60th anniversary of his ordination on Sunday, October 10th, 2021, at Zion Lutheran Church in Chelsea, Michigan. Pastor Morris was a Pastor at Grace in the 1960s. Worship begins at 10:15 AM followed by cake, ice cream and fellowship.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
3050 S. Fletcher Road
Chelsea, MI 48118

Cards may be sent to the address above or send email messages to zionchelsea@yahoo.com

For more information, call 734-475-8064.

- © **ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS LAST SUNDAY.** 43 persons attended worship last Sunday. Offerings for the week were \$1,845. That's below Grace's 2021 budget target of \$2,885 in offerings per week. Thank you to all who attend worship and continue to contribute regular offerings.

- © **PRAYER CONCERNS.** Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

The Family of Winnie Chasteen, The Family of Brian Glaser,

Larry Honsberger, Becky Witt, Bryan Witt, Sandy Snider, Shelly Sherman, Barbara Harger, Beverly Koveing, Kathy Spangler, Patricia Morral, Karen Southwyck, Carol Morgan, Amphy Haar, Dustin Schmidt, Chris Marquardt, Donald Bench, Jeannette Young, Sean, Bethany Collier, Dan Van Etten, Scott Taylor, Jody Angelone, Ron Dangler, Jen and Steve, Bob and Marge Griffin, Jim Flick, Sandy Duty, Josh Hunker, Jeff and Laryn Wheeler, Stephen Andrew, Dean Crandall, Kelly Troyer, Arnold and Donna Foss, Nadine Crisologos, Cheryl Hoot, Dick and Ruth Hammel, Reed Oestreich, Heather DeWitz, members of the Grace family who reside in nursing homes including Sandy Cutchall, Joan Dietrich, Jeanne Haar, Bertha Marquardt, Mitzi Pauli and Delbert Weng, and members of the Grace family and their colleagues who serve in the Armed Forces. If you know of someone to add to the prayer list, please inform Pastor Jaci or the Church Office.

UPCOMING ACTIVITES AND EVENTS AT GRACE			
Date	Event	Time	Location
17 September, Friday	Board of Witness and Mission	1:30 PM	
19 September, Sunday	Dan Boyle Organ Recital	4:00 PM	Solomon Lutheran
21 September, Tuesday	Board of Congregational Life	8:00 PM	Grace
23 September, Thursday	Council Meeting	7:00 PM	Grace
24 September, Friday	2021 Synod Assembly	6:00 – 8:30 PM	Virtual for delegates
24-26 Sept., Fri. to Sun.	Bethlehem Women's Retreat	Staybridge Suites, Rossford, OH	
2 October, Saturday	Eileen Glesser Memorial Service	10:00 AM	Grace
3 October, Sunday	Chicken BBQ Fundraiser	After worship	Grace
14 October, Thursday	Board of Worship	7:00 PM	Grace
31 October, Sunday	Reformation Sunday Potluck Brunch	After worship	Grace
1-8-15-22 December	Advent Soup Suppers and Evening Prayer Services	TBD	Grace

- © **EILEEN GLESSER MEMORIAL SERVICE.** The memorial service for Eileen Glesser, which was long delayed by the covid emergency, will take place in the

Grace sanctuary at 10:00 AM on Saturday, October 3rd. The service will be followed by a luncheon. Please help Karen Hammel plan for the luncheon by letting her know if you plan to attend the luncheon. Text Karen at 419-277-6708 to confirm your plans to attend the luncheon after the service.

- © **GRACE WATER SYSTEM UPDATE.** The Board of Property continues to work with the EPA to resolve water quality issues at Grace. Significant progress continues to be made, but a final “all clear” has not yet been reached. At this point, it’s still OK to use water to wash hands or dishes, but until further notice, please DO NOT DRINK THE WATER.
- © **COUNCIL MEETINGS.** The most recent Grace Council meeting took place via Zoom™ on the 19th of August. Discussions and decisions in that meeting were reported in the 26 August **Grace Family Weekly Message**. The next Council meeting is planned as an in person meeting at the church on September 23rd.
- © **DEACON AND LECTOR SCHEDULE.** Deacons and Lectors scheduled to serve in upcoming worship services are listed in the table.

DEACONS AND LECTORS FOR UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES		
DATE	DEACONS	LECTORS
19 September	Bruce King & Pr. Dave Wietelmann	Steve Blausey
26 September	Mary & Mike Schlievert	Mike Schlievert
3 October	Gary Anderson & Randy Jacobs	Jean Wietelmann
10 October	Jean and Merlyn Weng	Mary Schlievert

- © **OPERATION OREO.** Please keep all military personnel in your prayers, but especially: SGT Stephen Simkus and Cadet Julian Sanchez.
 - Anyone wishing to donate to Operation Oreo to help offset the cost of shipping and 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
- © **ELMORE FOOD PANTRY.** The Grace Food Pantry item for September is 16 oz. bags of noodles. The Elmore Food Pantry, which is hosted at Grace, is open on the third Friday and Saturday of each month, from 9:00 AM until noon. Anyone who wishes to drop off food items at the church should bring them to the church on Sunday or leave them inside the north door during times when the church office door is open. The church office is now open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. It is also open when Jazzercise sessions take place.
- © **SPECIAL BENEVOLENCE ACTIVITIES:**
 - **Chicken BBQ.** Grace’s Chicken BBQ will take place on Sunday, October 3rd. Sign-up sheets to help with the BBQ and to bake 34 dozen chocolate chip

cookies (no nuts) for the BBQ will be available this Sunday. Tickets may now be purchased for the BBQ at \$9.00 each. The beneficiary for the Chicken BBQ will be announced after Rally Day.

Our prayer: Almighty God, fill us with awe and reverence for the mighty acts of creation that you have given to a universe that is beyond our comprehension.

GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION		
PASTOR	COUNCIL PRESIDENT	CHURCH OFFICE
Pastor Jaci Tiell pastorjacitiell@aol.com 419-215-8370	Gary Anderson dcmgaryanderson@gmail.com 419-607-3036	Joyce Bruntz graceelc@gmail.com 419-862-3630

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