

The Grace Family Weekly Message

17 June 2021



PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY, THE 20th of JUNE. The Gospel reading for Sunday is Mark 4:35-41. Sunday is Fathers' Day—all dads will receive a Fathers' Day Treat from the Board of Congregational Life!
(Worship will be outdoors in the Grace parking lot, starting at 10:00 AM)

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, THE 20TH OF JUNE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE ISSUANCE OF A 3-YEAR TERM CALL TO PASTOR JACI TIELL. (See pages 3-4)

A NOISY OFFERING TO BENEFIT HOMELESS VETERANS THROUGH THE NATIONAL NON-PROFIT **VETERANS MATTER WILL BE COLLECTED ON SUNDAY AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENTS. SAVE YOUR COINS -- GIVE YOUR LOOSE CHANGE TO A WORTHY CAUSE! See page 4 for more information.**

Grace ELC Weekly Message Distribution. *Grace Family Weekly Messages* are distributed by email and regular mail to Grace's members and friends to inform them about worship services, church activities and benevolence programs. To add someone to the distribution list, send their email or mailing address to the Church Office (email to graceelc@gmail.com; mail to the Church at: 19225 W. Witty Road, Elmore OH 43416).

BIBLE STUDY: *This week's Bible study considers Paul's words in Ephesians that teach us how pastors and church members must work as a team to "build up" the body of Christ.*

A BIBLE STUDY ON PASTORS AND CHURCH MEMBERS

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NRSV)

¹¹The gifts he (Christ) gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

This week the members of Grace will meet to make important decisions regarding the life and future of our church family. Our last called Pastor departed 22 months ago. We have since been served by an Interim Pastor while we went through a Pastor-seeking process. Now through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the diligent work of Grace's Call Committee, we will meet on Sunday to decide whether to formally call the Pastor who has faithfully served as our Interim Pastor.

This particular scripture identifies "**pastors**" as being among the ascended Christ's "**gifts to his people**" (Eph. 4:7-8). This passage comes from Paul's letter

addressed to the Ephesians. Scholars generally agree that it was originally written as a circular letter to be sent to several Gentile Christian Churches, most likely in western Asia Minor (now Turkey). In this week when Grace is preparing to issue a “call” to a pastor, its relevance to us lies in what it teaches about the purpose of Christ’s “gifts” of church leaders and pastors.

Verse 12 states that the purpose of church leaders and pastors is “**to equip the saints for the work of ministry.**” “**The saints,**” that’s all of us, the members of the body of Christ. In the Lutheran Church, all Christians, whether in heaven or on earth, are regarded as saints.

The next question concerns how Pastors do this. The Lutheran Church’s Augsburg Confession (1530) puts it this way: “*So that we might receive this faith, God established the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments. For the Holy Spirit is given to people through the Word and sacraments, the tools through which God works.*” In the ELCA, pastors are called “**Ministers of Word and Sacrament,**” because their defining responsibility is to teach and preach the Word of God and to administer the sacraments of communion and baptism.

When Pastors fulfill their responsibilities, the results can be that we, “**the saints,**” are “**equipped for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.**” This says there is a direct link between pastors’ works and the “**building up**” of the “**body of Christ.**” A critical point, however, is that pastors’ works cannot “**build up**” the church or body of Christ unless we, the saints, hear the Word and receive the sacraments. That starts with doing things as simple as regularly attending worship. But it goes much further than that. Pastors and the saints must do the “**work of ministry**” together. The “**unity of faith**” that this scripture speaks about means that the pastor and “**the saints,**” that is, the church members, must work as a team.

When a church calls a pastor that call is formalized by an installation ceremony in which the newly called pastor affirms that she will “*love, serve, and pray for God’s people, and nourish them with the Word and sacraments.*” But in the installation, the congregation also affirms that they will be a partner in this call by promising to “*pray for her, help and honor her for her work’s sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ.*” This scripture teaches us that calling a pastor is more than just choosing a leader, calling a pastor is forming a team, agreeing to be partners. When the pastor and church members work together in Christ’s name, they can build up their church until it reflects, as Ephesians 4:13 states, the “**full stature of Christ.**”

WEEKLY NEWS AND EVENTS AT GRACE

- © **WORSHIP ON SUNDAY.** Worship this Sunday, the 20th of June, the fourth Sunday after Pentecost, will be in the church parking lot, starting at 10:00 AM. Pastor Jaci and Church Musician Bobbie Bean will conduct the service. This Sunday’s Gospel reading is Mark 4:35-41. **WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING ALL MEMBERS OF THE GRACE FAMILY TO WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY! VISITORS ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME!**
(This Sunday’s color is green!)

- © **COMMUNION.** Communion is now served during all Sunday worship services at Grace. Pre-packaged communion kits are available from the Deacons before worship or worshippers can bring their own bread and wine. Worshippers receive the body and blood of the Eucharist while they remain in their vehicles.
- © **ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS LAST SUNDAY.** 56 persons attended worship last Sunday; offerings totaled \$1,785. Offerings for the year remain ahead of the budget target of \$2,885 per week. Thank you to all who attend worship and contribute their regular offerings.
- © **PRAYER CONCERNS.** Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

The Family of Bobbie Sorg

Pat Sondergeld, Carol Morgan, Mrs. Philip (Amphy) Haar, Dustin Schmidt, Chris Marquardt, Sue Fondessy, Donald Bench, Carol Eckermann, Annabelle Howe, Dana Weirich, Karen Schlievert, Jeannette Young, Sean, Bethany Collier, Delbert Weng, Earlene and Dan Van Etten, Scott Taylor, Jody Angelone, Ron Dangler, Jen and Steve, Bob and Marge Griffin, Jeanne Haar, Jim Flick, Sandy Duty, Josh Hunker, Jeff and Laryn Wheeler, Peggy Michel Noftz, Stephen Andrew, Bertha Marquardt, Dean Crandall, Kelly Troyer, Arnold and Donna Foss, Mitzi Paule, Nadine Crisologos, Joan Dietrich, Sandy Cutchall, Cheryl Hoot, Dick and Ruth Hammel, Reed Oestreich, Heather DeWitz, Grace members who reside in nursing homes 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.

- © **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 this Sunday, the 20th of June, after worship, for the purpose of considering the approval of a 3-year, part-time Term Call to Pastor Jaci Tiell (*see below for details; additional information was published in the June Parish Reporter*).

- © **CONGREGATION MEETING DECISIONS.** When our congregation meets on Sunday after worship, we will be asked to vote on two questions:

1. Whether to call Pastor Jaci Tiell to a 3-year part-time term call, and
2. Whether to approve a revised pastoral compensation package.

The call we will vote on is a shared call where Pastor Jaci will serve both Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church (East Toledo). Both churches have been seeking part-time Pastors. With the support of the Synod, Pastor Jaci and the two churches have worked out a plan where she will serve as a part-time Pastor at both churches. She has been serving Grace as our Interim Pastor on a 20-hour per week basis. Now she will serve each church on a 15-hour per week basis. This should not represent a big change for Grace's relationship with her, but by combining two 15-hour per week calls, she is taking on additional responsibilities.

This new relationship with Bethlehem Lutheran Church is an innovative solution to the challenges small churches face in calling Pastors. Both churches will be able to call or contract with a Pastor whom they know and love. Grace has worked out a Letter of Agreement with Pastor Jaci in which her responsibilities will remain essentially the same as they have been while she has been our Interim Pastor. Those responsibilities include: 1) Planning and conducting worship services, 2) providing pastoral care to Grace members as needed (hospital calls, ministry to homebound members, etc.), and 3) supporting Grace's ministry to children and youth.

A key to making this new relationship work for Pastor Jaci is an agreement that on one Sunday per month, she will be free to attend worship with her family in her home church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church. This means both churches will have worship conducted once a month by supply pastors, but it also means Pastor Jaci's family will have opportunities to worship together. Another key to make this plan work is that Grace's members must also step forward, as they have during Pastor Jaci's Interim ministry, to perform certain key ministries that have included evening vesper services, Christian education and Bible study.

The revised compensation package to be presented for approval at Grace on Sunday reflects the change in Pastor Jaci's status from half-time to three-quarter time service, but now the compensation package will be equally divided between the two churches. The budget impact for Grace will be slightly lower. If both congregations approve (Bethlehem's congregation has already approved), the start date for the new pastoral relationship will be the 1st of July.

To make this new agreement work, both churches will need to make compromises. On Sundays, Pastor Jaci will conduct worship services at both churches. During the summer months, worship at Bethlehem will start at 9:00 AM and at 10:30 AM at Grace. Worship times will be reconsidered when we move into the fall months. There will be days when both churches cannot have Pastor Jaci at the same time, but Grace will now have a unique opportunity to develop a special relationship with an urban church in the Toledo area.

The Grace Call Committee and Council have prayerfully examined this plan and enthusiastically endorse it. Both recommend congregational approval. We hope as many of Grace's members as possible will be present on Sunday as we decide whether to make this new pastoral relationship become a reality.

© **NOISY OFFERING TO BENEFIT HOMELESS**

VETERANS. Save your coins and be sure to bring them with you for a noisy offering that will be collected on Father's Day, Sunday, the 20th of June. The Board of Witness and Mission is organizing this offering for the benefit of **Veterans Matter**, a national non-profit foundation dedicated to providing housing for many of the 35,000 homeless veterans in America. **Veterans Matter** works in partnership with Veterans Administration national homeless programs to find permanent housing for America's heroes and their families.



© **2022 ELCA YOUTH**

GATHERING. Every three years,

30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in

interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. Youth who are in 8th to 12th grade at the time of registration (Fall 2021) are eligible to attend. Registration starts in September so if you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Jaci know soon!!



MAY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT – A BRIEF SUMMARY (CORRECTED VERSION)

CATEGORY	May: Actual Income & Expenses	Year to Date Actuals ²	2021 Budget for four months ³
Offerings ¹	\$9,520	\$64,276	\$62,500
Unrestricted Income ⁴	\$9,828	\$60,372	\$60,084
Operational Expenses	\$9,536	\$48,845	\$54,055
Net: Income vs Expenses	\$292	\$11,527	\$6,029
<p>Notes:</p> <p>¹10% of "Offerings" are allocated to Benevolences; 6% are allocated to the Maintenance Fund.</p> <p>²To determine current budget status, compare "Year to Date Actuals" with the "2021 Budget."</p> <p>³The 2021 Budget is calendarized to show the amount allocated through the current month.</p> <p>⁴"Unrestricted Income" is 84% of offerings plus rental and miscellaneous income.</p>			

© **DEACON SCHEDULE.** Deacons who are scheduled to serve in upcoming worship services are:

- **20 June, Sunday: Jean & Merlyn Weng**
- **27 June, Sunday: Rachel Beeler & Joan Eckermann**
- **4 July, Sunday: Deb & Jeff Boos**
- **11 July, Sunday: Mary & Mike Schlievert**

© **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

© **ELMORE FOOD PANTRY.** The Grace Food Pantry item for June is 16 oz. boxes of crackers. 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 the following hours when the church office door is open:

- **Monday and Wednesday: 4:30 to 5:30 PM**
- **Tuesday and Thursday: 6:30 to 7:30 PM**
- **Saturday: 9:00 to 10:00 AM**
- **Sunday: 9:30 to 10:00 AM**

© **SPECIAL BENEVOLENCE ACTIVITIES:**

- **Wreaths Across America Fundraiser.** The raffle to benefit **Wreaths Across America – Ottawa County** is being conducted now. Funds raised will be used to purchase the wreaths that are 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 for the **Wreaths Across America Raffle** may be purchased from John Heminger, at **Portage Inn** in Elmore or at **Rayz Café** in Genoa. Winning tickets will be drawn on or about July 1st.

- **Millers Receipts.** Members of the Grace Family who shop at Miller's New Market Grocery in Genoa should continue to keep their receipts and give them to Marilyn Crandall who will redeem them for Grace (*or send them to 9591 W Moonlight Bay Lane, Oak Harbor OH 43449*).
- **Amazon Smile Fundraiser.** Amazon purchases earn cash contributions for Grace Lutheran Church if you enroll in the Amazon Smile program and name Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Elmore OH, as your designated charity. Log in with this address: smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1219970. If you use the Amazon Smile program and designate Grace as your charity, 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to Grace. Donations received through this program are divided evenly between Operation Oreo and the Piecemakers. So far this year, this program has yielded \$31.79 in donations for the two Grace programs.

Our prayer: Gracious God, we pray for wisdom and the continued inspiration of the Holy Spirit as we make decisions regarding pastoral leadership at Grace.

GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION		
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