

The Grace Family Weekly Message

15 July 2021



PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY, THE 18th of JULY.
The Gospel reading for Sunday is Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.

(Worship will be outdoors in the Grace parking lot)

During July and August, worship at Grace will start at 10:30 AM. Pastor Jaci's installation will be at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on the 22nd of July at 6:30 PM. Grace's members are invited to attend. Grace will host an Installation Celebration and Ice Cream Social on the 25th of July.

(See page 4 for details and more activity dates)

- **Volunteers are still needed to assist with the Red Cross Blood Drive at Grace this coming Monday, the 19th of July: Contact Joan Eckermann**
(See page 5 for details)
- **Volunteers are also needed to help with the Ice Cream Social after the Installation Celebration on the 25th of July: Contact Mary Schlievert.**
Plan to attend the celebration and enjoy the fellowship! *(See page 4 for details)*

A BIBLE STUDY ON THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

One of the most celebrated documents in Lutheran Church history is Martin Luther's **Small Catechism**. Luther wrote the Catechism to give Evangelical families an educational tool for teaching the basics of Lutheran beliefs. During the coming months, several **Weekly Message** Bible Studies will look at selected topics from Luther's **Small Catechism**. This week we'll start with what the Catechism and the Bible say about the First Commandment.

The Bible: The First Commandment: Exodus 20:3-5a

³"You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴"You shall not make for yourself any carved image with a likeness of anything in the heavens above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them;...

Luther's Small Catechism: The First Commandment
"You shall have no other gods."

What does this mean?

We are to fear, love, and trust God above all things.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Ten Commandments are recorded in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. The Biblical narratives describe how God revealed the commandments to Moses during his 40-days of encounters with God on Mount Sinai, which occurred during the Israelites' 40 years of wilderness wandering. The Ten Commandments are a fundamental set of biblical principles for ethics and worship. At Grace ELC, the Ten Commandments are featured in one of the revered stained-glass windows that adorn Grace's sanctuary.

Verses 3 and 4 are sometimes regarded as two different commandments although they say the same thing in two different ways. Verse 3 is a straightforward commandment to love God, as Luther's **Small Catechism** states, "*above all things.*" Verse 4 is a negative commandment that tells us not to do things that would show love for idols and false gods or contradict God's commandment to "**have no other gods.**"

Most of us understand what "**other gods**" were in the Bible but we may struggle to understand what today's "**other gods**" are. We know about Baal statues, and the golden calf the Israelites crafted while Moses was on Mount Sinai. We can say with confidence that we don't make images of false gods or bow down to them. But let's think that through again. Many people pay far more attention to making lots of money and getting rich or to acquiring power over others than to anything we do to show love for God. Many Ohio State Buckeye or Cleveland Indians Fans expend far more emotional energy and enthusiasm in supporting those "gods" than they expend in attending worship or supporting church activities. Things like that have become our "**golden calves.**" We do have "**other gods**" that often come before God.

Luther's **Catechism** tells us we are to "*fear, love, and trust God above all things*" but it's hard to understand how to do that. Perhaps the best answers for loving God lie in Jesus' teachings. In Matthew 22:36-38, a Pharisee asked Jesus, "**Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?**" Jesus' answer is well known, "**You shall**

love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." That answer leaves us with the same dilemma, how do we do that? But Jesus' next statement gives us a clear answer: "**And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.**"



The Ten Commandments Window in the Grace Sanctuary

Now loving God "*above all things*" starts to make sense. We can love God by loving our neighbors, those whom God created. But that love cannot be selective; we must love all whom God created, regardless of their color, race, ethnic identity, or sexual identity.

In his weekly message to Synod churches, Bishop Beaudoin pointed out a second way to love God "*above all things.*" The Bishop said, "*One of the ways we get to love God is by tending the earth.*" Genesis 1:26-27 tells us God created man and woman "**in the image of God.**" That means God created us to be, like him, creators. We can love God "*above all things*" by truly loving and caring for our neighbors and by continuing God's creative work by caring for his creation and making it better.

WEEKLY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

- © **WORSHIP ON SUNDAY.** Worship this Sunday, the 18th of July, the eighth Sunday after Pentecost, will be in the church parking lot. Remember that worship at Grace now starts at 10:30 AM, not 10:00 AM. Pastor Jaci and Church Musician

Bobbie will conduct the service. This Sunday's Gospel reading is Mark 6:30-34, 53-56. **WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING ALL MEMBERS OF THE GRACE FAMILY TO WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY! VISITORS ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME.**

- © ***RETURN TO WORSHIP INSIDE.*** The Grace Board of Worship has now projected a return to worship inside on Sunday, the 1st of August. Worship during August and the first Sunday in September will be in the Fellowship Hall. A return to the sanctuary is planned for Rally Day, the 12th of September. The PowerPoint format for preparing worship bulletins that can be emailed to members and used on cell phones or tablets in lieu of paper bulletins (reduces paper consumption) will continue. Worship services will continue to be broadcast on FM 94.1 so anyone who would prefer to worship in their cars can still do so. Parking spaces in front of the church entrance will be reserved for them. Offering plates will not be passed but they will be available for members' offerings. Passing the peace will be strictly limited. Communion will be served, but not in the traditional way. Full details on the return to indoor worship plan will be provided in the next ***Weekly Message***.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT GRACE			
Date	Event	Time	Location
15 July, Thursday	Council Meeting	7:00 PM	Zoom
19 July, Monday	Red Cross Blood Drive	12:00 to 6:00 PM	Grace
22 July, Thursday	Pastor Jaci's Installation	6:30 PM	Bethlehem Lutheran
25 July, Sunday	Installation Celebration and Ice Cream Social	10:30 AM	Grace
1 August, Sunday	Return to Indoor Worship	10:30 AM	Grace
3 August, Tuesday	Board of Congregational Life	7:00 PM	Grace
29 August, Sunday	Blessing of the Backpacks	10:30 AM (during worship)	Grace
12 September, Sunday	Rally Day—LWR school backpack assembly	After worship	Grace
19 September, Sunday	Dan Boyle Organ Recital	4:00 PM	Solomon Lutheran
24-26 Sept., Fri. to Sun.	2021 Bethlehem Women's Retreat		Adrian MI
3 October, Sunday	Grace Chicken BBQ		Grace

- © ***ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS LAST SUNDAY.*** 54 persons attended last Sunday's worship. Thank you to Pastor Don Clark and Pastor Dave Wietelmann for conducting worship and communion. Offerings for the year remain just slightly 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:

Karen Southwyck, Linda Stewart, Carol Morgan, Amphy Haar, Dustin Schmidt, Chris Marquardt, Sue Fondessy, Donald Bench, Annabelle Howe, Dana Weirich, Karen Schlievert, Jeannette Young, Sean, Bethany Collier, Delbert Weng, 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.

- © **INSTALLATION.** Pastor Jaci's installation service for both Bethlehem and Grace will take place at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 106 West Plumer, Toledo OH, on the 22nd of July. The service will start at 6:30 PM. Grace's members are invited and encouraged to attend this important event in the life of these churches.

See page 7 for instructions to drive to Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

- © **INSTALLATION CELEBRATION AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL.** On Sunday, the 25th of July, there will be an installation celebration at Grace. The worship service will conclude with an Ice Cream Social. Plan to bring your lawn chairs and join in the fellowship. The Board of Congregational Life needs 4-5 volunteers to help serve cake, ice cream and punch for this celebration. Volunteers will need to wear masks and food service gloves (gloves will be provided). A volunteer will also be needed to hand out chalk and bubbles to kids and help them find a safe place to use those items. Anyone willing to help with this event should contact Mary Schlievert.

- © **COUNCIL MEETINGS.** The Grace Council held its most recent meeting via Zoom on the 17th of June. A report on discussions and actions taken during that meeting was in the 24 June **Grace Family Weekly Message**. The next Council meeting will be today, the 15th of July.

- © **JUNE 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT – A BRIEF SUMMARY**

CATEGORY	May: Actual Income & Expenses	Year to Date Actuals ²	2021 Budget for six months ³
Offerings ¹	\$12,691	\$76,967	\$75,000
Unrestricted Income ⁴	\$12,434	\$72,806	\$72,100
Operational Expenses	\$11,166	\$62,094	\$64,866
Net: Income vs Expenses	\$1,269	\$10,712	\$7,234
Notes: ¹ 10% of "Offerings" are allocated to Benevolences; 6% are allocated to the Maintenance Fund. ² To determine current budget status, compare "Year to Date Actuals" with the "2021 Budget." ³ The 2021 Budget is calendarized to show the amount allocated through the current month. ⁴ "Unrestricted Income" is 84% of offerings plus rental and miscellaneous income.			

2021 Bethlehem Women's Retreat. The women at Bethlehem Lutheran Church have scheduled their 2021 Bethlehem Women's Retreat. It will take place at the Weber Center in Adrian, MI on September 24th, 25th & 26th. The women at Grace are invited to join in the retreat. The theme this year is "**He Has Made Everything Beautiful in It's Time**" (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

Just like the different seasons of the year, we also have different seasons in our lives. For example: There is a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to tear down and a time to build up, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to speak and a time to be silent. These are some of the topics we will be discussing along with many fellowship opportunities.

The cost of the retreat is \$135.00 for a single occupied room and \$95.00 per person for a double occupied room. The cost includes your room, all materials, and meals (Friday dinner, breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday) and beverages are available all weekend. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, August 15th. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Wendy McGee (419-349-2757).

- © **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!!

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

- **18 July, Sunday: Joan Eckermann & Gary Anderson**
- **25 July, Sunday: Rachel Beeler & Pr. Dave Wietelmann**
- **1 August, Sunday: Randy Jacobs & Gary Anderson**
- **8 August, Sunday: Jean & Merlyn Weng**

- © **AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE.** The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at Grace on Monday, July 19th, from 12:00 to 6:00 PM. Volunteers are still needed for shifts of 12:00 to 3:00 and 3:00 to 6:00 to work at donor registration, and to restock snacks and wipe down tables in the canteen area. Please



contact Joan Eckermann if you can help! (Cell: 419-350-4088; Work: 419-332-2081, ext. 245; Email: jeckermann@hotmail.com).

- © **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 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
- © **GRACE WEBSITE.** Grace's website at www.graceelconline.org is an excellent way for someone to obtain information about our church and its programs. The website was blocked for a few days at the beginning of this week by what appears to have been a website host firm's error. It has been corrected and the website is working again. Be sure to check it out if you are not already familiar with it.
- © **PORTALS OF PRAYER DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS.** New Portals of Prayer devotional booklets are now available. These booklets are published quarterly and are available without charge. See Nancy Pries or a Deacon for a copy.
- © **AREA OFFICE ON AGEING.** Anyone needing 2021 Home Energy Assistance Program Summer Crisis Program, we have information and applications in the church office. This program provides assistance with electric utility bills, central air conditioning repairs, and air conditioning unit and/or fan purchases. Call the office 419-862-3630.
- © **ELMORE FOOD PANTRY.** The Grace Food Pantry item for July is 10.5 oz. cans of soup. 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:**
 - **Chicken BBQ.** The Board of Worship and Mission has set a date for Grace's Chicken BBQ. Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 3. Volunteers and cookies will be needed. More details are coming!
 - **Backpack Assembly for Lutheran World Relief School Kits.** The Piecemakers have made 90 back-packs that will be available for assembly as school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Members of the Grace Family who want to support this annual benevolence project will be able to take backpacks and

fill them with the required items. The back packs will be available on Sunday, July 25th, together with lists of the articles to be placed inside. Read the instructions carefully. The return date for bringing the completed backpacks will be Sunday September 12th, which is **RALLY DAY**.

- **Veterans Matter Noisy Offering.** The Noisy Offering that was collected during worship on the 20th of June raised a total of \$147.96. That amount will be matched by Thrivent funds accumulated by Grace Thrivent Members. The total amount will be sent to Veterans Matter to support their program for homeless veterans.

Our prayer: Mighty God, help us understand when our allegiance to you is weakening and we are pursuing “other gods.”

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

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).

INSTRUCTIONS TO DRIVE TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

If your car has a navigation system, or if you use Google Maps, put “106 West Plumer Road, Toledo OH” into the search line, or follow these directions:

- From the Church, go 12 miles northwest on Highway 51 (Woodville Road)
- Turn left onto Wales Road (at the stoplight just before I280 entrance)
- Go 2 miles on Wales Road, then turn right onto E Broadway St.
- Go 0.5 miles on E Broadway St., then turn left onto E Andrus Road
- Go 0.8 miles on E Andrus Road, then turn left onto Tracy Road
- Go 0.2 miles to Bethlehem Lutheran Church (on the left)
- The Church is on the corner of W Plumer and Tracy
- The Bethlehem parking lot is on the north side of the Church

Travel distance is 17 miles from Elmore; takes 23-25 minutes