

## **The Grace Family Weekly Message**

**9 September 2021**



**PLAN TO WORSHIP AT GRACE THIS SUNDAY, THE 12<sup>th</sup> of SEPTEMBER. The Gospel reading for Sunday is Mark 8:27-38. Worship will take place in the Fellowship Hall.**  
(See pages 2 & 3 for more information about worship at Grace)

- Plan to remain after worship on Sunday to join in the assembly of Personal Care Kits that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief (LWR).
- Sunday is the last day for returning assembled School Supply Backpacks that will be shipped to LWR.
- Tickets (\$9.00 each) and sign-up sheets will be available on Sunday for the October 3<sup>rd</sup> Chicken BBQ (see pages 5 & 6 for more information)

### **A BIBLE STUDY OF THE NINTH (OR TENTH) COMMANDMENT**

*How to count the Ten Commandments correctly is subject to debate. Sometimes Exodus 20:3 (no other gods) and 20:4 (do not worship images of false gods) are counted as one commandment because they are so similar. Sometimes they are counted as two separate commandments. In most cases, verse 20:17 is counted as one commandment but Martin Luther counted this verse as two separate commandments. Depending upon how you count them, there are nine, ten or eleven commandments. How we count the commandments is not important, however, what is important is whether we follow them. This week's Bible Study looks at the last of the commandments (#9 or #10) and seeks to understand what coveting is and how we should respond to a modern consumer culture that wants us to covet more and more.*

#### **Exodus 20:17 (NIV)**

***17You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."***

Luther's **SHORTER CATECHISM** – The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

**9<sup>TH</sup> COMMANDMENT:** *You shall not covet your neighbor's house.*

*What is this? or What does this mean?*

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not try to trick our neighbors out of their inheritance or property or try to get it for ourselves by claiming to have a legal right to it and the like, but instead be of help and service to them in keeping what is theirs.

**10<sup>TH</sup> COMMANDMENT:** *You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

*What is this? or What does this mean?*

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not entice, force, or steal away from our neighbors their spouses, household workers, or livestock, but instead urge them to stay and fulfill their responsibilities to our neighbors.

The Hebrew text of Exodus 20:17 tells us we must not “**covet**” our “**neighbor’s house**,” “**wife**,” “**slaves**,” livestock, or “**anything that belongs**” to them. We noted in our study of the seventh commandment (26 August) how the Bible affirms the concept of private property. The original version of this commandment viewed wives and slaves as a man’s property. The Biblical writers of that time may have thought they understood God correctly, but if we take Genesis 1:27 seriously, its teaching that God created “**humankind, male and female, in his image**,” means women and other human beings cannot be a man’s property. A better translation of this verse might be “**You shall not covet your neighbor’s spouse (not wife), household workers (not slaves or servants), livestock or any property that belongs to your neighbor.**”

In Martin Luther’s **Shorter Catechism**, we see how Martin Luther, even in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, figured out that the original Exodus text reflected an earlier era that was not in tune with what this commandment really said, namely that we must not covet our neighbors’ “spouses, household workers and livestock.”

With an understanding that this commandment applies equally to all men and women, we can focus on what it says. The key word in this verse is usually translated as “**covet**.” It means to desire, want, or take pleasure in something (Exodus 34:24, Isaiah 44:9). The following two verses may help us understand “**covet**”:

Job 20:20: **Because he knew no contentment in his belly; he will not let anything in which he delights (covets) escape him.**

Micah 2:2: **They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them. They defraud people of their homes, they rob them of their inheritance.**

Coveting starts out as a simple desire, wanting something we do not have. In Job, coveting comes from not being satisfied with what we have (“**no contentment**”). In Micah, coveting the property of others leads to stealing their property (*fraud and robbery*). Desiring someone’s spouse or property can lead to taking what they have. This commandment urges us to treasure or value what we already have and to control our thoughts about wanting more (*self-control, see 1 Corinthians 7:5*).

Today we live in a time when popular consumer culture is based on enticing us to covet all kinds of things. We are deluged with television, print and electronic advertising that urges us to want more and more. What does this commandment say about how we should respond to this commercial culture? We’ve already noted how it commands us to practice self-control and not covet what we do not need. Luther’s **Shorter Catechism** suggests another way to respond. We should join with our neighbors in respecting each other’s families and property while “*fulfilling our responsibilities to our neighbors*” by helping those in need. Coveting or desiring our neighbors’ welfare is pleasing to God.

## WEEKLY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

© **WORSHIP ON SUNDAY.** Worship this Sunday, the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 8:27-38.

© **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.*

UPCOMING ACTIVITES AND EVENTS AT GRACE			
Date	Event	Time	Location
12 September, Sunday	Rally Day— assembly of personal care kits for LWR	After worship	Grace
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		Adrian MI
2 October, Saturday	Eileen Glesser Memorial Service		Grace
3 October, Sunday	Chicken BBQ Fundraiser		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

© **CONGRATULATIONS!** Congratulations to Rebecca and Tyler Rickman on the birth of their daughter Elsie Jean on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September! Elsie Jean is the granddaughter of Deb and Jeff Boos and the great-granddaughter of Jean and Merlyn Weng.

© **INVITATION TO PASTOR JOHN MORRIS ORDINATION CELEBRATION.**

Everyone at Grace is invited to attend the celebration of Pastor John Morris' 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 \$2,205. That's up from the previous two weeks, but it is still well 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 Brian Glaser, The Family of Ed Toth

Sandy Snider, Gary Daniels, Shelly Sherman, Barbara Harger, Beverly Koveing, Kathy Spangler, Patricia Morral, Karen Southwyck, Carol Morgan, Amphy Haar, Dustin Schmidt, Chris Marquardt, Donald Bench, Dana Weirich, 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.

© **WATER SYSTEM AT GRACE.** The Board of Property continues to work with the EPA to resolve water quality issues at Grace. Until this situation is resolved, it's 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

© **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

## **AUGUST 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT – A BRIEF SUMMARY**

CATEGORY	August: Actual Income & Expenses	Year to Date Actuals <sup>2</sup>	2021 Budget for eight months <sup>3</sup>
Offerings <sup>1</sup>	\$11,111	\$96,679	\$100,000
Unrestricted Income <sup>4</sup>	\$10,650	\$91,906	\$84,000
Operational Expenses	\$8,481	\$80,455	\$84,832
<b>Net: Income vs Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,169</b>	<b>\$11,451</b>	<b>\$11,301</b>
<p>Notes:</p> <p><sup>1</sup>10% of "Offerings" are allocated to Benevolences; 6% are allocated to the Maintenance Fund.</p> <p><sup>2</sup>To determine current budget status, compare "Year to Date Actuals" with the "2021 Budget."</p> <p><sup>3</sup>The 2021 Budget is calendarized to show the amount allocated through the current month.</p> <p><sup>4</sup>"Unrestricted Income" is 84% of offerings plus rental and miscellaneous income.</p>			

- © **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
5 September	Steve Blausey & Steve Simkus	John Marik
12 September	Gene Michel & Alan Wolfe	Mary Lou Kohli
19 September	Bruce King & Pr. Dave Wietelmann	Steve Blausey
26 September	Mary & Mike Schlievert	Mike Schlievert

- © **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 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 will also be available for purchase at \$9.00 each. The beneficiary for the Chicken BBQ will be announced after Rally Day.
- **Banana Boxes Needed.** To the shoppers of Grace: when you are out and about and you see banana boxes, please pick them up and bring them to

church. They are perfect containers in which to ship backpacks, personal care kits and blankets. Please bring them to the church.

- **Backpack School Kit Assembly for Lutheran World Relief.**  
Assembled backpacks with school supplies for shipment to LWR must be returned by the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, Rally Day. Place completed backpacks on the table in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Personal Care Kit Assembly for LWR.** The Witness and Mission Board has designated Rally Day, the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, as the day to assemble Personal Care Kits for shipment to LWR. Grace applied for and received a \$250.00 grant from Thrivent to purchase supplies for these kits.

***Our prayer: Loving God, teach us to control our wants and desires, inspire us to want more for our neighbors.***

GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION		
PASTOR	COUNCIL PRESIDENT	CHURCH OFFICE
Pastor Jaci Tiell <a href="mailto:pastorjacitiell@aol.com">pastorjacitiell@aol.com</a> 419-215-8370	Gary Anderson <a href="mailto:dcmgaryanderson@gmail.com">dcmgaryanderson@gmail.com</a> 419-607-3036	Joyce Bruntz <a href="mailto:graceelc@gmail.com">graceelc@gmail.com</a> 419-862-3630

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