

## The Grace Family Weekly Message

22 July 2021



### TODAY: PASTOR JACI'S INSTALLATION!

Grace's Members are invited to attend Pastor Jaci's installation at Bethlehem Lutheran Church today, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, at 6:30 PM. Instructions for driving to Bethlehem Lutheran Church are published on page 7.

**PLAN TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY, THE 25<sup>th</sup> of JULY.** The Gospel reading for Sunday is John 6:1-21. The worship service will include a recognition and celebration of Pastor Jaci's installation. An Ice Cream Social follows worship. Bring your lawn chairs! (See page 5 for more information about this big day)

- Details regarding the return to indoor worship on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August are published on page 3.
- Backpacks to be filled with school supplies and sent to LWR can be picked up this coming Sunday (See page 6 for more information)

### A BIBLE STUDY ON THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

The Bible Study for this week considers the second commandment and what Luther's *Shorter Catechism* teaches about that commandment.

#### Exodus 20:7

***<sup>7</sup>You shall not use the name of the Lord your God for evil purposes, for the Lord will not let anyone who uses his name for evil purposes to go unpunished.***

#### **Luther's *Shorter Catechism*: The Second Commandment**

*You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.*

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

*We are to fear and love God, so that we do not curse, swear, practice magic, lie, or deceive using God's name, but instead use that very name in every time of need to call on, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God.*

The second commandment was traditionally understood as a commandment against using God's name in profanity, but it is much more than that. Luther's *Catechism* expands the commandment's prohibition by teaching that we should "*not curse, swear, practice magic, lie, or deceive using God's name.*" The Old Testament provides many examples to help us understand the commandment's full meaning.

Numbers 30:2 provides a biblical standard for the second commandment: "***When a person makes a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind themselves by a pledge, they shall not break their word...***". Moses instructed the Israelites in

the Wilderness by telling them, ***“You shall fear the Lord your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear”*** (Deut. 10:20). Zechariah 8:17 makes God’s judgment about evil or false oaths clear: ***“do not devise evil in your hearts against one another or love any false oath; for all these are things that I hate, says the Lord.”*** Conversely, those who ***“do not swear deceitfully...will receive a blessing from the Lord...”*** (Psalm 24:4-5).

The second commandment is about ethical oath-taking. An oath is a solemn promise to do or say something that is made while appealing to God as a witness. The commandment is concerned that we should only call on God’s name when our solemn promise is honorable, and our intent is to fulfill that promise to the best of our ability.

People take many different oaths in public life. Doctors and healthcare professionals take the Hippocratic Oath to practice medicine to achieve good outcomes. Court witnesses take an oath to speak the *“truth and nothing but the truth.”* Citizens take an oath of allegiance in which they affirm their loyalty to their country and its laws. Public officials take an oath of office in which they swear to perform their duties in accordance with established law. In taking these oaths, we typically call for God’s assistance in fulfilling our promises by affirming, ***“so help me God.”***

Luther’s ***Shorter Catechism*** emphasizes how oaths or promises made in God’s name play a vital role in the lives of Christians. Its second part says, we are to use God’s name *“in every time of need to call on, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God.”* We promise to forsake sin in our confessions. Marriage ceremonies are an exchange of solemn vows. When children are baptized, we swear an oath by promising *“to support (name) and pray for them in their new life in Christ?”* with the answer ***“We do.”*** When baptized members affirm their baptism to become confirmed members, they swear an oath by professing their faith in Christ Jesus and renouncing sin.

When Pastor Jaci is installed as the called Pastor at Grace and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches this week, the members of our congregations will be asked: ***“People of God, will you receive Pastor Jaci Tiell as a messenger of Jesus Christ...Will you 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.”*** The second commandment says that when we answer, ***“We will, and we ask God to help us,”*** we are making a solemn promise to God and each other and are asking God to help us fulfill that promise.

## WEEKLY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

- © ***WORSHIP ON SUNDAY.*** Worship this Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, the ninth Sunday after Pentecost, will be in the church parking lot, starting at 10:30 AM. Pastor Jaci and Church Musician Bobbie will conduct the service. This Sunday’s Gospel reading is John 6:1-21. **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 Family will begin worshipping inside the church on Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. The Board of Worship has prepared the following information letter explaining how worship indoors will be conducted:

Dear Grace Members,

The Board of Worship is pleased to announce that Grace will return to indoor, in-person worship beginning on Sunday, August 1, 2021, at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. After much discussion we have developed the following plan for our in-person worship:

1. In-person summer worship services at Grace will begin at 10:30am to accommodate Pastor Jaci's dual partnership with Bethlehem Lutheran. We will hold services in the Fellowship Hall for the summer months (move to the Sanctuary TBD). Once a schedule has been created for the remainder of the year between Bethlehem and Grace, we will announce any time change to the congregation.
2. The sanctuary will be set up with rows of chairs and tables at the back of the Fellowship Hall.
3. The FM transmitter will continue to broadcast services on 94.1 FM for those who are unable to or prefer not to enter the facility for worship right now. Please allow the parking spots in front of the office entrance to be reserved for those congregation members. When we move to the Sanctuary, parking spots in front of the main church entrance will be reserved.
4. Grace will continue to utilize the emailed worship service and hymn sheets for those who wish to continue using their hand-held devices or print them each week. Printed copies will be made available (as we have done during drive-up worship).
5. Hymnals will be available for use during the service and congregational singing will be permitted.
6. We will continue to schedule two deacons for each Sunday. Deacons should arrive early to make sure everything for the service is ready. Deacons will continue to hand out worship bulletins and hymn sheets and take a head count each Sunday.
7. Deacons will not pass the offering plates during the service. Instead, the offering plates will be stationary at the entrance to the church. Deacons will remind members to place their offering in the plates either before or after the service.
8. We will resume having a rotation of Lectors who read scriptures each Sunday.
9. Grace will continue to do a sharing of the peace during the service; however, it will be different from our pre-Covid sharing of the peace. Pastor Jaci will still instruct the congregation to "*share the peace of Christ*" with one another and to which the congregation will respond "*and also with you,*" but congregation members are encouraged to wave, smile, give a 'peace' sign with your fingers, etc. to other congregation members and refrain from moving around. Congregation members may share peace by embracing their own family members should they choose to do so, but the sharing of the peace will be brief (as it has been during drive-up worship).
10. Grace will continue to utilize the communion kits as well as allow congregation members to continue to bring their own communion elements that will be consecrated during the service (as they have been during drive-up worship). The rows of chairs will be spaced further apart so that Pastor Jaci can move between the rows (as opposed to congregation members going forward for communion) to administer communion to congregation members. For the foreseeable future, we will utilize the kits (and members bringing their own elements) for communion and will re-evaluate our procedures for communion in the future.
11. Chancel Choir will resume weekly anthems beginning on Rally Day (Sunday, September 12, 2021.) The first Choir practice will be held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 7pm. Rehearsals are at 7pm each Tuesday.

UPCOMING ACTIVITES AND EVENTS AT GRACE			
Date	Event	Time	Location
22 July, Thursday	Pastor Jaci's Installation	6:30 PM	Bethlehem Lutheran
25 July, Sunday	Worship, 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
5 August, Thursday	Board of Property	5:30 PM	Grace
10 August, Tuesday	Board of Witness & Mission	5:00 PM	Grace
19 August, Thursday	Council Meeting	7:00 PM	Zoom
29 August, Sunday	Blessing of school children's backpacks	10:30 AM (during worship)	Grace
7 September, Tuesday	Choir Practice resumes	7:00 PM	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
2 October, Saturday	Eileen Glesser Memorial Service		Grace
3 October, Sunday	Chicken BBQ Fundraiser		Grace

© **ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS LAST SUNDAY.** 54 persons attended last Sunday's worship. Total offerings for the week were \$2,305. For only the second time this year, total offerings for the year have fallen just slightly behind 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 for driving to Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

- © **INSTALLATION CELEBRATION AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL.** On Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, there will be an installation celebration at Grace. The worship service will be followed by 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 15<sup>th</sup> of July. A summary of discussions and actions taken during that meeting will be in the next **Grace Family Weekly Message**. The next Council meeting will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August.

- © **DEACON AND LECTOR SCHEDULE.** The Deacons and Lectors who are scheduled to serve in upcoming worship services are listed in the table. Starting with the return to indoor worship on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, we will once again have Lectors participating in the service:

DEACONS AND LECTORS FOR UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES		
DATE	DEACONS	LECTORS
25 July	Mike Schlievert & Pr. Dave Wietelmann	
1 August	Randy Jacobs & Gary Anderson	Rachel Beeler
8 August	Jean & Merlyn Weng	Mark Haar
15 August	Rachel Beeler & Deb Boos	Mike Schlievert

- © **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 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. 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 25<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Wendy McGee (419-349-2757).

- © **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
- © **PORTALS OF PRAYER DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS.** New *Portals of Prayer* devotional booklets, including LARGE PRINT EDITIONS, 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 Witness 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 backpacks that will be available for assembly as school kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). 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 backpacks will be available this Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup>, which is **RALLY DAY**.

***Our prayer: All Knowing God, keep us faithful to our words and promises; help us to fulfill our promises.***

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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### **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