



NEWSLETTER

GRACE
Evangelical Lutheran
Church

August 2018

Inside this issue:

FROM THE PASTOR

I recently saw a banner in another congregation's newsletter. It read, "*The Lord's People at the Lord's Table on the Lord's Day.*" Could that be another way of saying that "the Church is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is proclaimed in its purity and the Sacraments are celebrated according to the Gospel"? Both the statements are attempts to describe what it means to be church.

The Lord's People: It is our privilege and honor to be numbered among this group of individuals who span time and space. One is added to the Lord's people through baptism into death and resurrection for Jesus. At the font, our death became his death and his life became our life. Marked with the cross of Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit, we belong to God forever. Since we are the Lord's people, how shall we live from day to day?

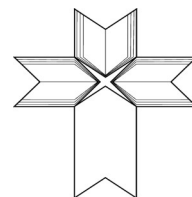
The Lord's Table: It is at the Lord's Table that we learn to live as people of God. Here we practice being people of God. The Divine Liturgy allows us to take our lives and offer them to God. We give the Lord what already belongs to God and so we get no credit for this. However, as consecrated bread and wine carry to us the very body and blood of Jesus, so our lives are filled anew with the presence, and pardon, and power of Christ Jesus. We are reassured that all Jesus does he does for us and all he has he gives to us. No one deserves such treatment but all must respond to it.

On the Lord's Day: Our primary response to God is to enter into the Name of God. Worship in the Name of Jesus is our door into the life of God. Once a week the faithful gather around Jesus so that he might bless us and then scatter us into the world, there to carry God's blessing to all we touch.

This is what it means for us to be the church together. Alone or off doing our thing may produce a "good life" as the world views goodness. But Jesus calls us to follow him, not to be good, but to be faithful. That call is an invitation to be part of his sacred community. *This community may properly be identified as the Lord's People at the Lord's Table on the Lord's Day.*

As we move into the last third of the summer, let us remember and rely on the presence and power of God to lead us in lives of service to one another. As we have opportunity, let us do good for one another and especially our fellow Christians. ***There is no greater good than to be the Lord's people at the Lord's Table on the Lord's Day.***

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and share God's good news with others with an emphasis on youth and families.

2018 SOUTHERN OHIO SYNDY ASSEMBLY SUMMARY

The 2018 Southern Ohio Synod Assembly was held June 1-2 at Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in Lewis Center, Ohio. This year's theme was Micah 6:8— What Does the Lord Require of Us?

The synod assembly is the highest legislative body in the synod, and is composed of lay voting members from each congregation, along with rostered ministers, visitors, and guests. This year's assembly was tasked with 24 elections for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly and Southern Ohio Synod Council, as well as the approval of the 2019-2020 Mission and Ministry Plan, 2019 Rostered Minister Compensation Guidelines, Required Updates to the Synod Constitution, and a resolution submitted from the assembly floor regarding immigration and the separation of families.

Keynote Address, Fellowship Dinner and Synod-wide Worship

The Rev. Jerome Taylor brought the assembly to its feet as he closed his keynote address about Micah 6:8. His sermon prompted the resolution that Christi and Ron Calvert brought to the assembly later that day. Unfortunately, we did not record his sermon. If anyone has a copy and would like to share it with the synod office, please contact Susan Barton-Nonno at sbarton-nonno@southernohiosynod.org or 614.464.3532, ext 5.

The Spirit continued his work into the evening of June 1 as over 240 people gathered for a fellowship dinner at All Saints Lutheran Church in Worthington, Ohio.

Following the dinner, Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunty preached over the synod-wide worship to a crowd of about 300 voting members and guests. \$1,169 was raised during the offering to support our Reformation Ministries fund for new and renewing congregations. Thank you for your generosity!

Report of the Bishop

On June 2, during the Report of the Bishop, Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunty introduced a new team of rostered ministers, the Pastoral Advisory Council (PAC), along with Pr. Mike Ward of Gronlund Sayther Brunkow Consultants, who will be work-

ing with Bishop Dillahunty to do a quiet launch for a campaign to fund various initiatives in our synod, like lay education, rostered minister debt reduction, and congregational vitality. The team will be identifying individuals who would like to make donations to seed this campaign, as well as individuals to provide bequests for future funding. This is an exciting time for our synod. God is at work among us and is providing vision and direction for our synod through this team and congregations like yours. Look for more information about this campaign as the team works to further identify and refine priorities as set forth by the interviews conducted by Gronlund Sayther Brunkow Consultants last spring.

One Additional Thank You

Mrs. Jan Borchers was honored on Saturday, June 2 for her nine years of service to the Southern Ohio Synod as Mission Interpreter Coordinator. Jan has a passion for sharing the work of the church with congregations and others and infused that passion into the trainings she led for Mission Interpreters in congregations in our synod and throughout the ELCA as she was a frequent presenter at the Churchwide mission Interpreters Gatherings. Thank you Jan for your love this church and for your years of service!

2019 Southern Ohio Synod Assembly

We will have an assembly in June of 2019 as it is a bishop election year. We will resume or bi-annual assembly schedule in 2021.

The 2019 Southern Ohio Synod Assembly is scheduled for Jun 7-8. The location is still to be determined as we keep accessibility and cost in mind.

Congratulations

We welcome Hayley Stout to the Lord's Table. Hayley made her first communion on July 15 at the anniversary service.



A Tale of Three Ships

I recently read a story by Ron Hutchcraft. It was the tale of three ships: the Titanic, the Californian and the Carpathia. Those on the Titanic thought they were on an unsinkable ship. 700 of the 2,200 passengers survived the ship wreck. To some extent, each of us are passengers on the Titanic, in need of rescue.

The second ship, the Californian, was ten miles from the Titanic when it saw the emergency flares of the Titanic. The captain thought it was too dangerous to risk a rescue and so it sailed on by. To some extent, each of us is like the Californian when we have the opportunity to reach out with a helping hand or a word of God's love, and yet fail to come to the rescue of a neighbor.

The third ship, the Carpathia was 58 miles from the Titanic when it received the plea for help. That ship raced to the scene at top speed in spite of personal danger; and 700 lives were saved. Are we not in the rescue business? We call it evangelism.

Evangelism is telling the good news of the rescue available for all through the death and resurrection of Jesus. According to Proverbs 24:11, God commands us to "rescue those being led to death." That is everyone born of woman.

In our own way, each of us, with our own words are witnesses to the love of God and the gift of life everlasting presented to us in Jesus. And Jesus desires to share his life with everyone.

We sail on this rescue vessel called Church. As we have the opportunity, let us be good news people for others. With the help of the Holy Spirit we may dare to take the risk and speak of Jesus. With generous acts and gracious words, we may bear witness to the faith which drives our lives. Such an invitation just might rescue another lost soul from the power of sin and death. Through our witness, many may come to know the love of God and the peace of Christ, and the fellowship of his church.

Faith Practices – Holy Absolution and Holy Communion

Experience teaches us that we are sinners and saints at the same time. This makes Christian living a daily process of dying to sin and daily rising to new life in Christ. **Holy Absolution** is God's assurance that sins confessed are sins forgiven. One of the privileges of a pastor is to hear a person's confession of sin and then speak God's words of forgiveness. This is done privately or publically, as on Sunday morning. It is the privilege of every baptized person to individually and privately announce that same forgiveness of God. Sin divides us from God and from one another. The forgiveness of sin reunites us with God and as a community of faith. The primary work of the Church is forgiveness.

Because of the weakness of our human nature, we need all of the assurance we can get. Christ forgives us in the Absolution. He comes to us one by one in the **Holy Communion** and personally makes that forgiveness real in a tangible way. At the altar, we eat and drink Christ's forgiveness. In this Blessed Sacrament, Jesus gives us himself. He puts his life in us, to renew in us the life first given in Holy Baptism. By inviting and even commanding the baptized to come and eat at his table, Jesus intends to nourish, strengthen, orient and transform our lives on earth so that we may live a heavenly lifestyle with him on earth now. This fellowship has an eternal dimension for those who eat with the Lord on earth now have the promise that they shall sit at table with the Lord Jesus in heaven.

Both Holy Absolution and Holy Communion open for the baptized believer a way of living with God and the people of God. These sacraments offer a fuller, richer life with Christ and his saints. And we grow in the life of faith through such faith practices.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Patti Heinlein at the passing of her sister
Elizabeth Murphy-Miller.





Profile in Faith—

Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, 1253

At age 18, Clare of Assisi heard Francis preach a sermon at a church in town. From that time, she determined to follow in his example of Christian living. With Francis's help (and against the wishes of her father) she and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She became a confidante and advisor to Francis, and in standing up against the wishes of popes for the sake of maintaining complete poverty, she helped inspire other women to pursue spiritual goals.

Florence Nightingale, 1910; Clara Maass, 1901; Renewers of Society

When Florence Nightingale decided she would be a nurse, her family was horrified. In the early 1800's nursing was done by people with no training and no other way to earn a living. Florence trained at Kaiserswerth, Germany, with a Lutheran order of deaconesses. She returned home and worked to reform hospitals in England. Nightingale led a group of thirty-eight nurses to serve in the Crimean War, where they worked in appalling conditions. She returned to London as a hero and resumed her work there for hospital reform.

Clara Maass was born in New Jersey and served as a nurse in the Spanish-American War, where she encountered the horrors of yellow fever. She later responded to a call for subjects in research on yellow fever. During the experiments, which included receiving bites from mosquitoes, she contracted the disease and died. The commemoration of these women invites the church to give thanks for all who practice the arts of healing.

Mary, Mother of our Lord

The church honors Mary with the Greek title *theotokos*, meaning "God-bearer." Origin first used this title in the early church and the councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon upheld it. Luther upheld this same title in his writings. The honor paid to Mary as *theotokos* and of our Lord goes back to biblical times, when Mary herself sang, "from now on all generations will be me blessed" (Luke 1:48). Mary's life revealed the presence of God incarnate, and it revealed God's presence, among the humble and poor. Mary's song, the Magnificat, speaks of reversals in the reign of God: the mighty are cast down, the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are fed and the rich are sent away empty-handed.

YARD SALE!

The annual Grace Yard Sale is August 24th and 25th (Friday and Saturday) 9am-2pm. Thank you to all who have donated items already, donation boxes are available for those who still have items to donate. A list of suggested items is available outside the sanctuary. On the day of the sale, lunch will be available in the fellowship hall. This is a church-wide event involving anyone who is willing to help! We will need help before the sale sorting, and setting up, as well as prepping the kitchen. On the day of the sale, we will need help bagging, straightening floating, and in the kitchen. Please sign up to help on the kiosk!

Thank you,
Judi



Office summer hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings (9:30am-1:30pm) and Tuesday & Thursday afternoons (1:30pm-

Please review the "Prayer Concerns" list in the Grace Notes. If you have placed someone on the list that no longer needs prayers, please contact the office.



Birthday Blessings



Michael Lynn	08/01
Karl Groezinger Sr.	08/10
Thomas Siddle	08/13
Rose Kendrick	08/15
Athena Kelley	08/17
Jeremy Kelley	08/19
Lucia Dunor	08/20
Logan Stout	08/21
Nicholas Clay	08/24
George Dunor	08/29
Max Fisher	08/29
Bendu Kanneh	08/29

Local Youth Attend the E.L.C.A.'s National Youth Gathering

Every three years, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America holds a National Youth Gathering. This year's Gathering was held in Houston, Texas from June 27 through July 1. Athena Kelley, Aries Kelley, Logan Stout along with their adult leader, Tara Stout, attended from Grace Lutheran Church. The congregation gathered on June 26 to pray and send the youth group on their way to Texas. The youth and congregation raised the money for the religious adventure in Texas.

Thousands of youth from all over the country worshiped and studied together, made friendships, and learned about the various activities and agencies of the E.L.C.A. Participants also had an opportunity to help the people of Houston as they recover from recent disasters. Events like the E.L.C.A.'s Youth Gathering offer a sign of hope for the future of mainline Christianity in the United States.



Financial Stewardship Through June 2018

Giving:

June 3	\$3,012.00
June 10	\$1,808.34
June 17	\$887.00
June 24	\$1,772.00
TOTAL	\$7,479.34






Year-to-Date

YTD Income	\$50,041.46
Total Expenses	\$11,478.00
Total Expenses YTD	\$53,150.53
Capital Exp & Misc	\$00.00

August Worship Assistants

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Date	 Ministry Team		 USHERS	 Altar Guild	 Greeters
August 5	Tina Siddle	Elizabeth Klopfer	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Ann Biri, Mary Lapham, & Cathy Dorion	Rose & Howard Kendrick
August 12	Rod DuMond	Debbie Kelley	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Ann Biri, Mary Lapham, & Cathy Dorion	Rose & Howard Kendrick
August 19	Tina Siddle	Bonnie DuMond	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Ann Biri, Mary Lapham, & Cathy Dorion	Rose & Howard Kendrick
August 26	Tina Siddle	Debbi Dunlap	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Ann Biri, Mary Lapham, & Cathy Dorion	Rose & Howard Kendrick

****If any of the assistants or readers have a conflict with the dates they have been asked to participate, please contact Doug Jackson.**

Did you know that you can receive your monthly newsletter by e-mail? This way you don't have more clutter on your kitchen counter.

Help Grace save the additional costs of paper and stamps by signing up to receive your newsletter on line. Just email Elaine (office@gracecolumbus.com) and let her know!

