



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

August 2021

We Need Each Other!

Let me start with these quotes from Christian leaders of long ago:

L *He cannot have God for his father who does not have the church for his mother.* -- Augustine

Apart from the church, salvation is impossible. -- Martin Luther

So highly does the Lord esteem the communion of His church, that He considers everyone a traitor and apostate from religion who perversely withdraws himself from any Christian society which preserves the true ministry of the word and sacraments. -- John Calvin

For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them. -- Jesus

It certainly goes against the spirit of this age to think that we need others if we are to be close to God. A neighbor of mine once told me, that they were very spiritual and had worked out their own way to commune with God.

- *This doesn't work for me.*

- *I have developed my own idea of right and wrong.*

- *As long as I don't hurt anyone, I think I'm free to do whatever I want.*

- *The church is full of hypocrites. All they want is your money and to see how many people they can cram into their buildings.*

- *Look at all the scandals with ministers and priests. Why should we listen to them?*

Let's go back to the Bible and, particularly, the book of Acts. It is Jesus Christ who created the church. Throughout the New Testament the Word of God is telling us that we cannot just have a relationship with God and ignore the people around us. In fact, the Bible insists that we need each other. The word independent (as many churches like to use in their name) is antithetical to God's purposes. The favorite analogy of the Bible is the body. Can the eyes or ears say they want to be independent from the body? Absurd! We need each other and God has made it so!

Many will come right back and say: "*Look at all the damage churches have done to people.*" It is true that all churches are imperfect and that some are very imperfect. The church is like Noah's Ark: The stench inside would be unbearable if it weren't for the storm outside. Yet, it is only in the Christian church that the truth is being proclaimed and portrayed.

When one becomes a Christian receiving the grace of God through Jesus Christ, one is made part of the Holy Christian church. This is the universal or catholic (with a small "c") church which is invisible. All true Christians belong to this universal church. But it is clearly God's will and intention (indeed His command) that we be a part of a local church – a local assembly of believers. It is in these local churches that God intends to carry out His mission to reconcile all humanity to Himself. If you are not a part of a local church then you have not made yourself available to God's mission; God is not working through you!



We Need Each Other

(Continued on page 2)

We Need Each Other (Continued)

We need each other to carry out the great mission Jesus Christ has given us: to make disciples everywhere. Alone we tend to get lost. Alone we will follow our own selfish desires. A membership commitment is not passé. It is important if we are to help each other, encourage and strengthen each other. It is important if we are to organize ourselves to carry out the mission God has given us. As imperfect and messy as the local church can be, still we rely on our Lord who said He would build His church.

The season that we recently went through with the COVID pandemic dictated that we “go it alone” in a sense. We were forced to separate ourselves for a time from our church family in an effort to stay healthy and safe. While we are thankful for the technology that allowed us to stay somewhat connected via on-line services, it also had some negative impacts and created new habits for some that cannot replace the one-on-one, face-to-face relationships we have with the members of our church family. Fully, the worst of the pandemic is now behind us.

If you have not re-joined us for regular Sunday in-person worship—**WE WANT YOU BACK! WE NEED YOU BACK!** So please stop thinking you can go it alone. Reevaluate your present absence from the body of Christians God has placed you in. Do not take lightly your commitment to Christ and your commitment to your church. The truth is we need one another!

~ Pastor Rich

Adult Inquiry Class

Please join Pastor Rich for his current Adult Inquiry Class (or as we lovingly call it—AIC) on **Thursday evenings**, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., in the Grace Fellowship Hall. This is an exciting 10-session class that will teach you all about the Lutheran faith. This series began on July 29, but you can still join at any time—if you have missed a session or two, don't let that dissuade you from joining. You can let Pastor Rich know you plan to attend, but you can also just show up! Visitors, regular attenders, Grace members, and repeat AIC attendees are all invited to join! Child care is provided. Come join in!



Grace Prayer Team Welcomes Requests



The Grace Prayer Team is constantly at work! If you have a prayer request that you would like prayed over by the Grace Prayer Team, we welcome your requests. Please contact **Kristin McGee** at kdmcgee08@gmail.com (865-384-9834) or **Ev Brown** (evbrown@gmail.com (865-870-5603)). The request will then be passed on to the team. We continue to welcome Prayer Team members as well. If you are interested in praying for the needs submitted by our church family, please contact Kristin or Ev with your interest.

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Articles for GraceNet are due by the **1st of each month** for the following month's edition.

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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to

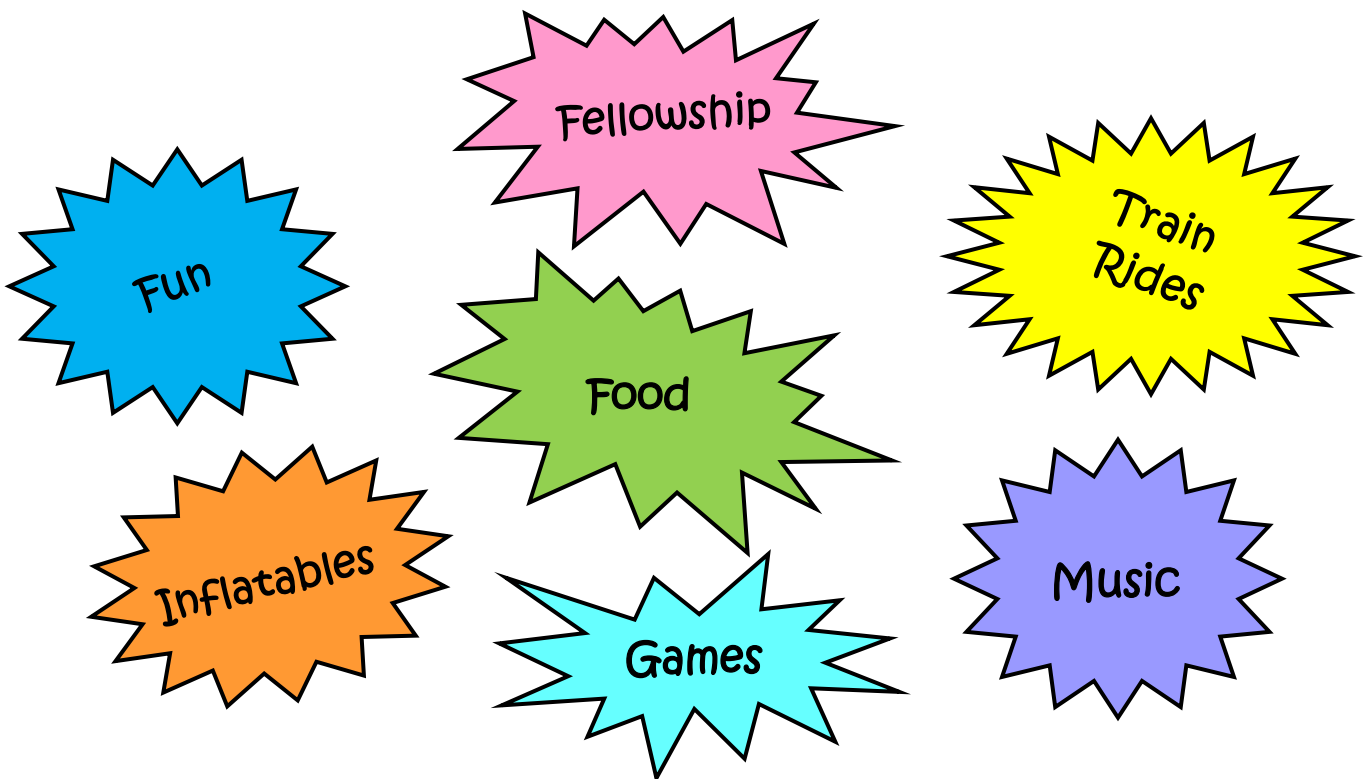
Debbie Booher by the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

We want you to join us for the

“The Come Back Event”

Saturday, August 21, 2021

10 a.m.—1 p.m.



***And So Much More—
Grace Family Please Come
and Invite Your Friends!!!!!!!***



| | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|-------------------|
| 8/1 | Ted Haase | 8/18 | Emma Kreiss |
| 8/1 | Seth Pettiford | 8/18 | Noah Roettger |
| 8/2 | Kitty Pruett | 8/18 | Stacy Roettger |
| 8/3 | Donna Cummings | 8/19 | Courtney Reed |
| 8/3 | Pastor Rich Elseroad | 8/20 | Carolee Granquist |
| 8/3 | Les Grebe | 8/20 | Caleb Shipwash |
| 8/3 | David Smith | 8/20 | Kathy Treffert |
| 8/4 | Donna Anderson | 8/20 | JoAnn Vaughn |
| 8/5 | Carol Herbold | 8/21 | Charles Robinson |
| 8/5 | Diana Holden | 8/21 | Klaire Scheibe |
| 8/6 | Nolan Campbell | 8/21 | Fredrica Skov |
| 8/7 | Elisa Hoppe | 8/22 | Susie Elseroad |
| 8/8 | Pat Bloom | 8/22 | Chris Emerson |
| 8/8 | Tonia Collins | 8/22 | Leon Mollenhour |
| 8/8 | Haven Cruise | 8/23 | Jessica Abraham |
| 8/8 | Joe Dew | 8/23 | Claudia Campbell |
| 8/8 | Marianne Drake | 8/23 | Mike Harper |
| 8/8 | Margie Frizzell | 8/24 | Caroline Bangert |
| 8/8 | Davis Masters | 8/24 | Paul Guthrie III |
| 8/8 | Caden Pafford | 8/24 | Paul Guthrie IV |
| 8/9 | Tyler Baker | 8/25 | Phyllis Klindt |
| 8/9 | Kylie Cruise | 8/26 | Aubrey Elseroad |
| 8/10 | John Cothrine | 8/26 | Megan Kabela |
| 8/10 | Brock Kothe | 8/26 | David Poker |
| 8/10 | Allen Schultz | 8/27 | Sandy Heath |
| 8/11 | Eric Kleckley | 8/27 | Sam Smithey |
| 8/11 | Tina Stine | 8/27 | Timothy Wolfram |
| 8/11 | Remy Tunstall | 8/28 | Fred Haase |
| 8/12 | Katherine Duncan | 8/28 | Keira Shafer |
| 8/13 | Cameron Smith | 8/29 | Esther Reckling |
| 8/13 | Austin Strobel | 8/29 | Ruby Roettger |
| 8/14 | Derek (D.J.) Wilson | 8/30 | Lynette Duncan |
| 8/15 | Carol Campbell | 8/30 | Keegan Estrada |
| 8/15 | Dave Harjala | 8/30 | Keira Estrada |
| 8/15 | Tom Lewis | 8/30 | Ray Maier |
| 8/17 | Susanna Beeler | 8/31 | Sherry Colwell |
| 8/18 | Cydne Albers | 8/31 | Frieda Guthrie |
| 8/18 | Nancy DeTrana | 8/31 | Abigail Kabela |



| | |
|------|------------------------------|
| 8/3 | Michael & Penny Perry |
| 8/4 | Kaitlyn & Matt Garren |
| 8/5 | Steve & Mary Krempasky |
| 8/8 | Paul & Theresa Angelino |
| 8/8 | Mark & Joyce Satterfield |
| 8/8 | Jim & Teri Stoddard |
| 8/8 | Brian & Catherine Strobel |
| 8/10 | Bob & Gail Kurtz |
| 8/11 | Nathan & Debbie Bretscher |
| 8/13 | James & Randi Ray |
| 8/14 | Darryl & René Mackley |
| 8/14 | Joh & Kathy Treffert |
| 8/15 | Karl & Kristin Kennedy |
| 8/15 | Pastor Steve & Fredrica Skov |
| 8/16 | Van & Ashley Bevins |
| 8/16 | Tim & Tonia Collins |
| 8/16 | Ralph & Christine Harness |
| 8/16 | Joe & Barbara Schmitt |
| 8/18 | Fred & Nancy Haase |
| 8/18 | Brian & Whitney Kaul |
| 8/19 | Paul & Sheila Wittke |
| 8/20 | Mel & Carolyn Beech |
| 8/21 | Paul & Kathy Pankow |
| 8/26 | Tom & Kellye Glisson |
| 8/27 | Dave & Sandie Harjala |
| 8/27 | Sandy & Randy Heath |

School is about to start in Knox County/City and other surrounding areas. Take special care in watching for children at bus stops, crossings and school zones. Help keep our kids safe!!

August Scripture of the Month

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

~ Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV

Bible Quiz

During the dramatic experience when God called Isaiah to be a prophet, who or what filled the temple?

- A. 144,000 worshipers
- B. The bottom of God's robe
- C. Smoke
- D. Priests offering sacrifices

Answer: B and C (See Isaiah 6:1-8.)

August Children's Curriculum Themes

In an attempt to connect the adults and children of Grace just a bit more, I will be letting people know the theme and verse of the week in our children's Sunday school classes. I would love it if the adults would join in memorizing or at least talking about it to the children as they see each other in the halls. Listed below are the themes and scripture for August.

~ Frieda Guthrie

| DATE | THEME | VERSE |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|--|
| August 1 | God protects us. | God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1) |
| August 8 | God can use us. | I can do all things through Him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13) |
| August 15 | God wants us to hope in Him. | But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31) |
| August 22 | God uses His power to help us. | So do not fear, for I am with you; I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10) |
| August 29 | Jesus sets us free. | So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:36) |



Operation Christmas Child

The Christmas season is just a few short months away. But why wait until the last minute? Take advantage of the tax-free weekend to buy supplies to fill your box(es). Need ideas of what to put in a box? Check out the bulletin board in the children's wing for some great ideas. Christmas Child Boxes can be donated year round, there are updates on how to pay, and we are ready to help with any questions you may have about this ministry. Don't feel like packing a shoebox? We will gladly accept donations for any items you would like to donate towards a box. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Frieda Guthrie at childrensmin@visitgrace.org or Paul Guthrie at pgvint3@gmail.com



~ Blessings,
Paul and Frieda Guthrie

GRACE STEWARDSHIP

🕒 TIME 🌱 TALENT 💰 TREASURE

Good Stewards for our Good Shepherd

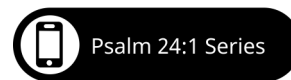
Psalm 24:1 Summer Workshop Series

The Mission of the Stewardship Ministry is to equip God's people at Grace to effectively and efficiently use the resources God has entrusted to us for His purposes. Our team is here to provide informative, practical workshops that will help members serve God with the time, talent and treasure He has blessed us with. This summer, we will focus on addressing common challenges that often hold us back from fulfilling service: not enough time, not knowing where we fit in ministry, or not enough money. Join us as we explore ways to jump these hurdles and better understand how you were uniquely made to Connect, Grow, and Serve at Grace, and live out the mission God has given us!

Save the Date!

August 22 Budgeting Basics: Getting started on telling your money where to go instead of wondering where it went.

Are you constantly concerned about money? Come learn how to make it work for you and bless others instead of letting it worry you.



LWML News

Calling "Men, Women, and Teens:" You are all invited to a presentation on "Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST)" at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday morning, September 11, sponsored by the LWML. Lisa Ivey from Street Hope TN, will present a 1-hour training and awareness seminar with a PowerPoint presentation on this alarming topic. We all need to be aware of the signs of trafficking in our area and learn what to do to help our teens. Pastor Rich will be with us to lead prayers for those affected by "DMST."

Thank you for gathering 54 pairs of glasses and 29 cases that we took to the LWML Convention in Kentucky. They will be used in Haiti by MOST Ministries.



Ladies, please note that the deadline for the Eagle Rock Retreat is September 10. Registration forms are on the LWML Bulletin Board in the mailbox hallway. The sunrise there is worth every penny and the food is great, too! If you have questions about any of these events, contact kathybohlken@comcast.net.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are still needed for many church activities. If you can help fill any of these needs please get in touch with the contacts listed below:

Audio/Visual Volunteers for all 3 Church Services

(Contact: Dale Henderson at 865-235-4304 or daleh@visitgrace.org)

Summer Sunday School Volunteers

Please consider being 1 of 2 volunteers for either age group: 3-year-olds-Kindergarten or 1st-5th grades. You may choose any date: August 1-August 15. (Contact: Frieda: childrensmin@visitgrace.org)

Co-Teacher for Sunday School Class

Children's Ministry is in need of a co-teacher for the upcoming 3 and 4 year olds Sunday School class. (Contact: Frieda: childrensmin@visitgrace.org)

Please prayerfully consider these requests for service to our Lord.

Gospel Ministry Versus Social Ministry

My classmates and I were all training to become pastors. A frequent question among the students was how to balance preaching the Gospel with doing good for all people. The first concerns our relationship with God, or the vertical. The second concerns our care for other human beings in the name of God, or the horizontal.

A clever sounding admonition said, "Do not become so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good." At the time there was a famous Lutheran clergyman who often mentioned the Kingdom of God, but in a way that left many uneasy. When Jesus came announcing the Kingdom of God, He called people to repent of their sins and to believe on Him (the vertical). When I once had the opportunity to hear this clergyman, he directly said the Kingdom of God was not some pie in the sky in the sweet by and by after you die, but much more akin to social concerns now (the horizontal). He could rightly point to Jesus healing the sick and feeding the hungry, etc.

Many years later I heard a man tell about his first years as a new missionary. The tribal group to whom he had been sent had many problems with deadly diseases and infant mortality. He wanted to preach the Gospel, but he spent his first two years building a hospital. In the end that hospital established his credentials with those people and they listened eagerly when he preached the Gospel to them. To this day he firmly believes he would not have been able to preach the Gospel to these people without that hospital.

A man named Brother Andrew wrote a book called "God's Smuggler" about covertly bringing Bibles into Communist lands. In an interview he proposed his program for social ministry. Based on passages like, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and the other things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:33) he urged preaching the Gospel and spreading God's Word as of first importance. God promises to supply the needs of His people. If we preach the Gospel, people will come to believe in Jesus, and God will keep His promises to provide all they need.

We feel good about ourselves when we hand money to the beggar along our way. But, community groups in Portland, Oregon asked people to stop doing that. Too often the beggars are simply enabled to continue bad life choices. These groups asked instead that donations be given to organizations prepared to screen those receiving aid and to help them learn to make better life choices so they can have a better future on their own.

In Acts 6 the Apostles appointed deacons to handle needs for aid so that the preaching of God's Word would not be neglected. Giving the right balance between both the vertical and the horizontal will never be easy for us and may be decided differently in different situations.

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

HealthLine

Please note that everything written in this column will be backed by research, various studies, and facts. There will be no personal opinions.

~ Sheila Wittke



Control Body Weight with Tea

A study from the University of Tsukuba in Japan stated that drinking oolong tea may help you lose weight while you sleep. According to the study, oolong tea is partially oxidized when it is processed and has characteristics of both green and black teas. Researcher Kumpei Tokuyama said that "oolong tea is like all teas in that it contains caffeine, which impacts energy metabolism by increasing your heart rate. However, studies suggest that tea consumption may also increase the breakdown of fat, independent of the effects of caffeine." When tested on healthy volunteers, researchers found that oolong tea increased the breakdown of fat by about 20 percent compared with a placebo (an unmedicated preparation) and continued to have an effect during sleep. Because there was no difference in sleep patterns between the two groups, researchers believe the caffeine in oolong tea does not keep people up at night. Researcher Tokuyama also said that "the stimulatory effects of oolong tea on fat breakdown during sleep could have real clinical relevance for controlling body weight."

All the ends of the earth shall
remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall
worship
before you.

P S A L M 2 2 : 2 7 , E S V

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E-mail address: glc@visitgrace.org
Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m. (Blended)
Sunday School & Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:



“Connect ~ Grow ~ Serve”