



August 2023

Grace Lutheran Church

## Suicide Prevention Meeting to be Held at Grace on Aug. 3

A QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. QPR training by



Grace's Bethany Lemons will teach you to recognize the warning signs of suicide and how to question, persuade and refer someone for help. Please RSVP to the church office. For more Information, visit:

<https://www.asapofanderson.org/our-coalition>.



Photo by Pat Hope

## The Three Flowers of Summer

These beautiful lilies at our backdoor could easily represent June, July, and August — and all the beauty of summer that surrounds our church. Come join us this Sunday for more inspiration.

For more information, See QPR, Page 10



## Last of Summer Solos, Special Music Shared in August

As summer rolls on we continue to hear many beautiful solos and works for a small number of forces as this time of year affords the opportunity. Flute, strings, and singing in particular have characterized a number of the wonderful musical blessings we have heard in recent services. This congregation is brimming with musical gifts, and the willingness of members to share these gifts is a true inspiration.

In a few short weeks, the ensembles that rehearse throughout other parts of the year will resume rehearsals to prepare for the Fall. On Wednesday August 23, Ringspiration will be back to work at its regular time of 5:45 pm; Chancel Choir at 7 pm. Both of these groups have a wonderful time bonding and making music. There is room for more, as always. Please do join us!

## Rummage and Bake Sale will Benefit Pet Rescue Groups

We will have both a Rummage Sale/Bake Sale in the Fall (date to be determined). Please start saving/collecting your items for the Rummage Sale, and also think about what you can bring to the Bake Sale. Watch the announcements and *Light* for future information. As plans develop, we will be asking for volunteers to help with the sales. If you have questions, please contact Phil Stumbo at (865) 482-3048 or [pstumbo@comcast.net](mailto:pstumbo@comcast.net).



## “God’s work. Our hands” Set for Sunday is September 10

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. The Commissions of Grace are holding a “Ministry Fair” and you can **order a t-shirt to wear on September 10 in support**. Order forms are available at each entrance and the Narthex. The deadline to order is August 13 (this is a firm date). Bring completed forms with payment to the office. Payments can be check or cash. Pricing starts at \$9.25 for youth and adult sizes.

Pastor Paula Smith, Interim

## Grace is Brimming with Ways to be Thankful



The kingdom of God is like...what might you fill in the blank? There are so many things to say here, especially being a member of Grace. We have so many things happening all the time, that if they spilled outside the doors of the building in a happy, joyous way, people would know who we are!

The kingdom of God is like a basket in the foyer of the church that is brimming with school supplies for Woodland Elementary school.

The kingdom of God is like stepping up and offering to fill in for someone who is leading worship but fell ill at the very last moment and couldn't make it to worship.

The kingdom of God is like a group of women making prayer shawls for the comfort of others.

The kingdom of God can be so many things. Give it some thought. It's all about loving, caring and helping others as God in Christ would want us to do.

We give thanks for April Fritts who has stepped up to be one of our nursery workers. We give thanks for those who have offered to have their names placed for nomination to the church council, as well as for those who might need to discern before answering. We give thanks for all who are on the call committee working diligently to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in finding our next pastor.

We give thanks for each other; to those we turn to on Sunday mornings when passing the peace; to those who offer special music as well as those who sing from the pews. We are the members of the kingdom of heaven here on earth, and we give thanks to God for his rich blessings!

Happy August!

**Grace Mission Statement**  
**Love Jesus and help others love Him**  
**through word and actions.**

**BOTH SERVICES ARE NOW IN THE SANCTUARY**

**9:00 a.m. Contemporary: In Person, Sanctuary**

**11:15 a.m. Traditional: In-Person, Sanctuary**

Services on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHKKSX\\_JwSTrvl-LqdrbGIw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHKKSX_JwSTrvl-LqdrbGIw)

## The President's Corner by Ron Goans, MD

# Thoughts and Commentary on Psalm 118



Hello again! I have been reading Martin Luther's commentary on the psalms<sup>1</sup> and thought you might enjoy his thoughts on Psalm 118. I have often felt comfort in reading this psalm.

Ps 118:1-2 (NRSV)

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."*

Ps 118:14-24 (NRSV)

*The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous. The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly. I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

### A Prayer by Martin Luther on Psalm 118

**Give thanks to the Lord, O my soul. Worship Him and trust His mercy and truth; for they are as great as He Himself is, and they endure forever. Let the Lord be Your meditation and Your song in the house of Your pilgrimage because He has given You strength, and has set before you the hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ.**

**Lord Jesus, who bled and died for our sins, and rose again triumphing over Your and our enemies, grant us to be partakers of Your victory, that we, delivered from the hand of them that hate us, may serve You without fear in time and eternity.**

**Amen.**

<sup>1</sup>Luther, Martin. *Reading the Psalms with Luther*. Concordia Publishing House. Kindle Edition.



**A Special Called Meeting** to discuss sharing the sanctuary space on Sunday mornings was held June 17. Both the Contemporary Service and the Traditional Service are now held in the sanctuary.

Photos by Stan Long





**New Members**

Grace welcomed Mother and daughter, Joan Erikson and Julie Longairo as our newest members on Sunday, July 30.

**Sign Up for Back-to-School Picnic Planned for 5 p.m. on 13th**

Grace will sponsor a back-to-school picnic on Sunday, **August 13**. Nurturing will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, condiments, dessert and drinks. We are asking the congregation to bring a dish to share.

We plan to have outdoor games and a bouncy house, starting at 4p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. RSVP to Candy Yu-go, [cyugo54@gmail.com](mailto:cyugo54@gmail.com), or to the church office. Sign-ups for the picnic will be in the Narthex and back entryway.

We hope to see you!



**July Love Offering – Woodland School**  
**August Love Offering — Social Ministry for Members**

*July / August Birthdays*

Betty Dagley	07/01
Jessie Hiserote	07/02
Pat McMillan	07/03
Sy Moua	07/03
Lois Szluha	07/04
Chris Parton	07/05
Audrey Elam	07/11
Barbara Sparks	07/11
Paula Pope	07/18
James Bauman	07/18
Bill Moehl Jr.	07/22
Neal Vaughan	07/23
Chuck Thompson	8/04
Nate Stewart	8/07
Ron Goans	8/12

Marvel Burtis	8/15
Ashley Moua	8/19
April Fritts	8/20
David Olsen	8/22
Pat Hope	8/23
Joe Kitts	8/28
Judy Joy	8/30
Ruth Kerchner	8/31
Rhonda Ashburn	8/31

If you have a name you would like to add to the birthday list or a correction, please call the church office at 483-3787.

# Tree Dedication

On November 3, 2022, Charles and Virginia Jones had a redbud tree planted, in memory of Doug Smiley, in the front lawn at Grace. The tree has grown and flourished, and it produced a few blossoms in the spring. Charles Jones and Ruth Smiley were present for the tree dedication by Pastor Paula Smith on June 8, 2023. Doug's ties to Grace go back to 1948 when he was baptized here at the age of 5.

The words of dedication:

The Tree of Life represents harmony and balance in nature, rebirth and a connection of the earthly and the spiritual. Trees are symbols of strength, individuality and expression, calmness, growth and the interconnectedness of everything.

*"But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit" (Jeremiah 17:7-8).*

"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." **Psalms 19**

Good and Gracious God, send your blessing on this redbud tree, which we set apart today; may it serve to increase our vision of your glory, to remind us of your goodness and your strength, and to remind us that the beauty of your love is never ending. We give you thanks, Lord, for the seasons of life and for the joy we receive in knowing that you make all things new. Amen.



## Annual Blessing of the Backpacks on July 30



Pastor Paula conducts the annual Backpack Blessing for students and teachers at the July 30 service.

# August Happenings

**Sunday School (Christian Education)** for children and youth is on Summer recess until August 13. If you have any questions about youth Christian Education, please contact Donna Gurecki (865-599-1238). **Adults meet in Room 101.** If you have any questions regarding adult Christian Education, please see Betty Anne Domm (865-256-2502).

**Adult Sunday School** has started watching the video, "The Second Thousand Years of Christianity." It will take approximately 4 weeks to view. When we have finished watching this, we will be starting a new Bible study by Dr. Andy Stanley. We will have study guides available for this class. Please watch for further announcements. The adult class meets Sunday morning between the Contemporary and Traditional services (10:00 a.m.) in Room 101. Whether you attend this class regularly or have never attended, you are welcome to join the conversation.

**Is there interest in a CPR class??** Please let Donna Gurecki know if you would be interested in a class.

**Looking to spend time outdoors?** And get some exercise? – Since volunteers do our lawn maintenance, we need a group of volunteers to share the responsibility. The objective is to have a group large enough that no one needs to mow more than once every other month. All the equipment and fuel that is needed is available at the church or you can bring your own equipment. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the back entrance to the Church where you can indicate your willingness to mow on a specific week. Or contact Rick Rawl of the Property Task force (call 865-919-3230 and leave a voicemail if necessary or email rickrawl@comcast.net) and he will coordinate scheduling and answer any questions you have.

**PUZZLES-PUZZLES-PUZZLES!** Every 2nd Thursday at Judy Joy's house from 10a.m. - 2p.m. Bring a lunch and enjoy the fun! .

**ESOL:** Eunice Search has begun teaching the beginner class on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. Thank you Pastor Sylvia for teaching this summer!



**Poetry Pie** meets August 28. Email Pat Hope for link. Grace Writers is on hold until Fall.

**The Book Discussion Group:** This group meets on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom. You can call or text Diane Weaver at 828-687-0422 or email me at dgweaver7169123@comcast.net to get on the Zoom invitation list. The discussions are recorded, so anyone who wants a recording emailed to them should contact Diane.

**Spanish Class:** Is on hold until mid-August. Our Spanish class will continue after the break with a new twist.

## Call Committee Update

**The Call Committee has completed the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) and has submitted it to the Synod Office. It has been approved by the Synod Office and has been posted online. The Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jonathan Hemphill, is in the process of matching candidates with the MSP. After he has vetted the candidates, he will send us a list of names. When the committee receives the names from Pastor Hemphill, it will begin the interview process. Pastor Hemphill is the Bishop's Assistant who is working with this congregation in the call process.**

Senora Mena will be making it more conversational going forward. It is small enough that students can receive significant individual attention, though more students are welcome. The class meets on Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Room 101. If you are interested please contact Nancy Munro or the church office.

**The prayer shawls** are now located in the Narthex credenza.

**Help for Lutherans in Ukraine:** Lutheran Disaster Response: Eastern Europe Crisis Response (ELCA.org/ disaster). The ELCA is sending aid to our sister Lutheran churches in Ukraine and several neighboring countries. You can help!

**Blanket Workshop:** makes blankets for distribution to Lutheran World Relief. Meetings are on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join in, or just stop by to see what is happening. Sewing skills are not required.

**VIA DE CRISTO** Retreat is October 19-22, 2023. Would you like to experience God's amazing Grace? Have time away to immerse yourself in His love? Laugh, sing and fellowship with other Christians? Then the upcoming Via de Cristo weekend is the place for you. For more info contact Janet or Rick Rawl, Crista Froeling, Slade Trammel, Paula Pope, Valerie Hansen, Lorraine Huynh or Betty Anne Domm.

# 1st, 2nd, and HM Go to Grace Photographers



Gloria Caton and Stan Long walked off with three awards at this year's Anderson County Fair in Clinton.

Gloria won a First Place Ribbon in "Architecture" for the photo she took

on a Grand Circle River Cruise she and John took last July-August on the Rhine and Mosel Rivers from the Netherlands to Switzerland. The photo shows half-timbered houses along a canal in Strasbourg, France, with flowers bursting out of flower boxes everywhere.

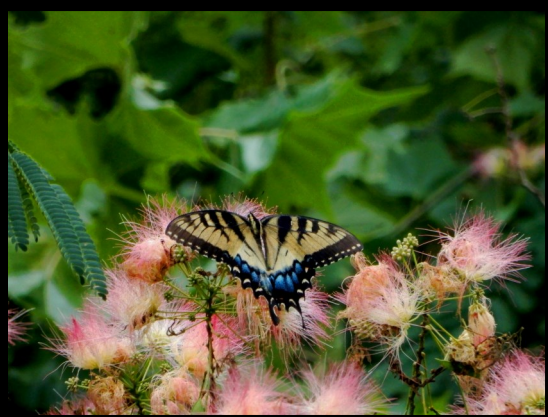


Gloria recalls, "It was a beautiful place and a beautiful day. Strasbourg, equal parts German and French, is the capital of Alsace. Alsace is a historical region in northeastern France on the Rhine River plain. Bordering Germany and Switzerland, it has alternated between German and French control over the



centuries and reflects a mix of those cultures."

Gloria expressed special thanks to Stan Long and Pat Hope for suggesting, encouraging, and helping her enter this photo into the Anderson County Fair competition.



Stan Long won second place in the "Downtown Clinton" category with his Old Railroad Water Tower. He also got an Honorable Mention for Tiger Swallowtail in the "Insect category."

Stan's photos have won many prizes at Anderson County Fair, as well as other venues.



As most of you know Calvin has been volunteering at Grace Lutheran Church Food Pantry/ Second Harvest for quite sometime now. We are finally excited to announce that Henry has now become a part by starting his own volunteer business by delivering food to others who are unable to come and pick up their food due to transportation, illness, schedule, etc. Bill is also helping while he is out of work by keeping up documentation and separating items. Our new family affair! So if anyone needs assistance please reach out. " Hands Of Grace Delivery Service". 🙌



## Being Good Neighbors



Our Food Pantry made it into the *Emory Valley Newsletter* and we received this copy thanks to Vickie Kitts.

QPR, continued from Page 1

The attached is a summary of the subject to be presented by Grace member Bethany Lemons at the Thursday, August 3 meeting on suicide prevention. This is but a small part of the state-wide coalitions that are concentrating on prevention of improper use of all kinds of drugs in Tennessee. ASAP of Anderson is the coalition of Anderson County organizations, including churches, acting to save lives by preventing substance abuse. I am hopeful that we at Grace might be able to contribute in some way to this effort. Please watch for more announcements.

Stan Long

## “Question-Persuade-Refer” – A Process

You might, through accidental or planned circumstances, become a Gatekeeper for a person in a mental crisis whose life is hanging in the balance. A Gatekeeper is trained to implement a simple three step process that can result in saving the life of a suicidal individual. This process is known as QPR, or Question-Persuade-Refer. The Gatekeeper is not a professional mental health provider, but may be the first responder in a mental health crisis.

Think of a first responder that uses CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) to revive an accident victim who has stopped breathing. Or perhaps to administer Naloxone in the case of a drug overdose. There is an analogy between CPR and QPR (Question-Persuade-Refer) that can be used for purposes of illustration. CPR is basically a physical process, where QPR can be thought of as a transactional process between two parties.

The Gatekeeper is trained to recognize certain warning signs in a friend, co-worker, family member, etc., who is having a mental health crisis. Rather than taking physical actions, he or she uses the tools of QPR to gain confidence through questioning and reasoning, leading the subject to a hopeful state of mind, thereby “opening the gate” to seek help rather than choose suicide.

The QPR Institute (<https://qprinstitute.com>) developed this training. It is available through ASAP of Anderson and Metro Drug Coalition in Knox County.

### Bishop Urges Lutherans to Support Efforts Against Christian Nationalism



In her monthly column for *Living Lutheran*, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton addresses the scourge of Christian nationalism in the U.S., calling it “a perversion of the gospel and a threat to our democracy.” She writes, “An element in our country wants to legislate that the United States is a Christian nation where Christianity should be privileged and only Christians should hold office. This is Christian Nationalism, which is neither Christian nor patriotic.” The ELCA supports [Christians Against Christian Nationalism](#) and encourages you to participate in our civic life so that we might work together for the common good. [Read more from Bishop Eaton](#)

# Hymns to Celebrate as We Change Seasons

**Judy Goans  
Worshipping**

Weather has been a major focus of the news lately, with major heat waves across the United States. As August brings its heat, it also spells the end of summer, when students and teachers return to school and we look forward to cooler days. The changing of seasons puts me in mind of hymns that celebrate God's role in the physical world, the beauty of God's creation, and the way God is manifest in this world. I therefore share two hymns that celebrate God in the natural world.

The first is an American hymn, "All Beautiful the March of Days," by Mrs. Frances Whitmarsh Wile (1878-1939). (cyberhymnal.org). It reminds us of God's role in the physical world and the beauty of God's creation as shown by the passing of the seasons. Sadly, this hymn is not in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, so here are the lyrics, courtesy of hymnary.org:

1. All beautiful the march of days,  
As seasons come and go.  
The hand that shaped the rose has wrought  
The crystal of the snow,  
Has sent the hoary frost of heav'n,  
The flowing waters sealed,  
And laid a silent loveliness  
On hill and wood and field.

2. O'er white expanses, sparkling pure,  
The radiant morns unfold;  
The solemn splendors of the night  
Burn brighter through the cold.  
Life mounts in ev'ry throbbing vein,  
Love deepens round the hearth,  
And clearer sounds the angel hymn,  
"Good will to all on earth."

3. O God, from whose unfathomed Law  
The year in beauty flows,  
Yourself the vision passing by  
In crystal and in rose,  
Day unto day shall utter speech,  
And night to night proclaim,  
In ever changing words of light,  
The wonder of your name.  
Source: [One in Faith #889](#)

If you would like to listen to it, you can hear it at  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqVmAkJvqQM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqVmAkJvqQM)

The second, much older hymn, is "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" by Isaac Watts (1674 –1748). Here are the lyrics

for this hymn from [https://library.timelesstruths.org/music/I\\_Sing\\_the\\_Mighty\\_Power\\_of\\_God/](https://library.timelesstruths.org/music/I_Sing_the_Mighty_Power_of_God/)

1. I sing the mighty pow'r of God, that made the mountains  
rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty  
skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at His command, and all the stars  
obey.

2. I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with  
food,  
Who formed the creatures through the Word, and then pro-  
nounced them good.  
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my  
eye,  
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.

3. There's not a plant or flow'r below, but makes Thy glo-  
ries known,  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy  
throne;  
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care;  
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present  
there.

You can listen to this hymn at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Hx\\_Baw0YUk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Hx_Baw0YUk).

Looking forward to seeing you all in worship!



## Volunteers Needed for Ecumenical Storehouse in August

**Grace along with Kern Methodist will operate the Ecumenical Storehouse in August.** The Storehouse was established in 1984 and is operated by all volunteers on a rotating basis by 12 congregations. The Storehouse accepts, stores, and distributes almost every type of household good.

**Volunteers are needed from 10-12 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 9-12 on Saturdays.** The Ecumenical Storehouse is located at 134 E Division Rd, Phone (865) 481-0274. To volunteer, just show up or call Kathy Olsen 865-335-7240 for questions.

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
 131 West Gettysburg Avenue  
 Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Phone: 865-483-3787

E-mail: graceortn@comcast.net

Website: www.graceoakridge.org

## Condolences

**June 9**  
**Georgia Ledbetter**  
 Pat Hope's mother

**July 24**  
**Richard Hansen**  
 Valerie Hansen's brother

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### Want to win a gift card? Find the three hot dogs.

In August we celebrate the end of summer, back to school events and enjoy eating picnic food such as hot dogs. See if you can find the ones hidden in this issue. They may not all look the same.

Please send the page numbers where you find them to Pat Hope (thetwohopes@aol.com) by August 31. Only email or text messages (865-310-0722) accepted. Prize to be

awarded in Sept. The one pictured here doesn't count.

The three mortarboards in June were on Pages 1, 5, and 6.

#### Congratulations to past winners:

- Anne Douglas — June Caps
- Rhonda Ashburn — May Hearts
- Janet Rawl — April Eggs
- Donna Hoglund — March Clocks
- Paula Smith — February Hearts
- Lorraine Huynh — January Hats
- Crista Froeling — December Snowmen
- Emilie Damos — Nov. Turkeys
- Rhonda Ashburn — Oct. pumpkins