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September 2023

**Grace Lutheran Church** 



### **A Moment With Nature**

Lorelei Peterson takes in the beauty of the waterfall in our Memory Garden following the August 27th traditional service. "God's Work, Our Hands" Set for Sunday Sept. 10

Grace members are invited to participate in a God's Work, Our Hands project. We will be stuffing school kits for the Lutheran World Relief program on

Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Busy bees have already sewn the backpacks that will be used, and we are asking the congregation to provide the supplies that go inside each bag. A list of



what supplies are needed for each kit is available on a table in the narthex, or you can go to <a href="https://lwr.org/kits/school-kits/instructions">https://lwr.org/kits/school-kits/instructions</a>. A basket is in the narthex for your donations, or you can bring them with you on September 10th. If you have any questions, please contact Ingrid Busch. Thank you for helping provide education for children around the world!

The Semi-Annual Meeting is Sunday, Sept. 24 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will begin after the 12:30-p.m.-provided (light) lunch in the Fellowship Hall.



# Regular Music Groups Return in September

As of this writing, the summer musical chapter at Grace is wrapping up (See Photos on Page 13). Ringspiration and Chancel Choir, alongside New Creation, are back to their diligent work as a new glorious season draws nearer and nearer.

It is serendipitous that the Sunday of Chancel Choir's return to the 11:15 service falls on September 10th, **God's Work, Our Hands** Sunday. For this occasion, the choir will offer an urgently rousing choral setting of Jaroslav Vajda's hymn "Catch the Vision! Share the Glory!" Often sung at Pentecost, we believe that this work will serve as an inspiring reminder of Grace's mission, and encourage all to continue exploring the rare abundance of opportunities for service to fulfill that mission at Grace.

### Ashlee Crouse to Speak at Both September 3 Services

Ashlee Crouse of the Metro Drug Coalition will speak to the Grace Congregation at both 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. services on Sunday, September 3. As Regional Faith-Based Coordinator, Ashlee is the point of contact for the faith community in contributing to recovery programs for the east Tennessee region. She works with our ASAP of Anderson coalition on similar issues. She provides training and educational presentations, as well as coordination of special events. Ashlee has a passion for helping others find a path to recovery and gain the skills to sustain their journey. She is a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, a Certified Recovery Coach/Facilitator, a QPR Gatekeeper Instructor, a Mental Health First Aide Facilitator, and a Triumph Over Trauma Fa-



cilitator. Ashlee is an individual in long term recovery and uses her experience to share hope with others. She previously served as a TN Recovery Navigator.

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### Pastor Paula Smith, Interim

# **Grace Congregation Burns With Desire to Help**



The person who wrote the Lazy-Hazy-Crazy Days of summer was obviously not from Tennessee. Part of one of the verses in that song is, "I wish that summer would always be here." I don't know about you, but I've been longing for a little autumn in my life. Not because of pumpkin spice, bonfires and other reasons that you see on social media, but because cooler weather seems to let people breathe a little easier.

Cooler weather seems to give people a little bounce in their step. September is the start of a refreshing change from the heat and humidity of summer.

One thing that hasn't cooled off, though, is the willingness and the ability to get the name of Grace Lutheran into the church community. I was so excited to see volunteers from our congregation helping to care for those who are cleaning up after the Knoxville tornado.

I am happy to know that Janet Rawl and Crista Froeling jumped at the chance to share news of our church with a table at the Anderson County Reserve. And still others have offered to be here to lead our Sister Synod from Guatemala on a tour of the church and to spend a few minutes in prayer and conversation with them on September 14.

On September 10, we will hear from our Commissions about their responsibilities in our congregation and members will have a chance to choose to help on a commission, as part of our celebration of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. In the afternoon, at 2:00, all are welcome to donate school supplies and their time to put together school kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Have you had a boring, hot summer? Have you been away from the church for a bit? I invite you to step inside the doors of Grace and find the air to be cool, but the congregation is on fire! Come and see!

# **Grace Mission Statement**

Love Jesus and help others love Him through word and actions.



**Coffee Fellowship, Anyone?** Proclaiming is looking for volunteers to assist with set up before and cleanup after services for coffee fellowship. We'd like to offer it at both the early and late services.

Set up involves preparing a tray of goodies (cookies or the like) and making coffee, plus setting all out for people to help themselves on Sunday morning. The tray can be

made ahead of time and placed in the refrigerator. We can provide training for how to make coffee in the Kitchen's drip coffee maker, using pre-measured coffee packets. Proclaiming will provide cookies. If someone wants to bake and furnish a goody, just let Christy Gipson know in advance when you're going to bring something for a Sunday morning.

If enough volunteers step up for these functions, a rotation can be set up so no one serves more than once a month. That's four or five each for set up and clean up. Please let Christy Gipson (cchristy55@gmail.com) know if you can help for the early service and Nancy Munro (nbmunro318@icloud.com) know if you can help with either function for the late service.

# VIA DE CRISTO Retreat OCT. 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, Stacey Garrick, Valerie
Hansen, Lorraine Huynh, Ruth Smiley or
Betty Anne Domm among others. We'd love
to share our experiences with you.



September
Love Offering
Thanksgiving Baskets

Chris and Sarah Bauman welcomed Luke Fitzgerald Bauman on 8/16. He weighed 8 lbs. and is 20 inches long. Both mother and baby are doing well. Grandparents are James and Beverly Bauman.



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

# **Thoughts and Commentary on Psalm 23**



Over the last three years we have gone through probably the worst of the covid crisis and, for some of us, serious health issues and trouble in our family. As I write this, I am reminded of Psalm 23 and Martin Luther's commentary:

#### Psalm 23 (NRSV)

Martin Luther notes that the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm is a psalm of thanks in which a Christian heart praises and thanks God for teaching him and keeping him on the right way, comforting and protecting him in every danger through His Holy Word. The psalmist compares himself to a sheep that a faithful shepherd leads into fresh grass and cool water.

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; <sup>3</sup> he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

### A Prayer from Martin Luther<sup>1</sup>

Lord Jesus, who alone is that one Good Shepherd, thanks be unto You for all Your spiritual and bodily benefits. Let the Word of Your salvation dwell among us richly, and suffer not that trusty staff, the word of Your promise, to be taken from us. And when the shadow of death spreads over us, conduct us safely to the fold of the perfected saints, the tabernacle not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Amen.

<sup>1</sup>Luther, Martin. Reading the Psalms with Luther (p. 49). Concordia Publishing House. Kindle Edition.

#### Remember

Semi-Annual Meeting: Sunday, September 24, lunch 12:30 and meeting to start at 1 pm.

### Participating in Worship Can Be Stress-Free

**Judy Goans, Worshipping** 

Have you considered participating in worship but don't feel confident? This year we will plan some activities for people who would like a bit of no-stress practice before volunteering. Some skills to practice might include blessings, healing prayers and anointing, and being an acolyte or crucifer. Watch for opportunities, which will be included in our announcements.

**Prayers Requested:** Steve Robertson underwent a difficult surgery for recurrence of oral cancer at Johns Hopkins on Thursday August 31. He and Linda really need prayers for success of the surgery, and for healing. He will be hospitalized for a while, and cards and letters would be very much appreciated. Please send cards to The Hackerman Family Pavilion, 301 North Broadway, Room 201, Baltimore, MD, 21231.

#### **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-LqdrbGlw

# Warm Delivery

At right, Mack Bailey and Joyce Fox prepare to leave the church on Friday, August 25 to drive to Greeneville to deliver a year's worth of Blanket Workshop items that included 26 quilts, 10 fabric kits, and 25 pounds of school kits (7 kits that were prepared by Ingrid and Heidi Busch). Thanks Mack for driving and delivering the workshop items this year.

Photo by Audrey Elam





### Question Persuade Refer

About 20 people attended the QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Meeting held Thursday, August 3. QPR training by Grace's Bethany Lemons helped attendees recognize the warning signs of suicide and how to question, persuade and refer someone for help.

Photo by Pat Hope

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### Rummage/Bake Sale to Benefit Pet Rescue Groups

We will be having a Rummage Sale/Bake Sale on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to benefit the local Rescue Groups. In addition, we will have an Art Show from Woodland school. Please join us for all around good fun and fellowship!! We will need volunteers to help with set-up, sorting, pricing, etc., and hanging the Art Show.

For the Rummage Sale, start thinking about and collecting things you can bring. A listing of suggested items and unacceptable items will be posted with the signup sheets at the church entrances in early September and on the Pet Fest Website. Clean, gently used items are needed. No furniture; clothing; computers, printers, scanners, etc.; DVDs, old TVs, VCRs, etc., please.

Rummage Sale items can be brought to the church starting on Sunday, October 8 and placed around the wall in the Fellowship Hall. More information will be provided in the bulletins as we approach the event. For the Bake Sale, bakers, culinary artists, and everyone who enjoys making delicious goodies, we need your scrumptious delicacies! Some items could be baked ahead of time and refrigerated or frozen. Did you make jam, jelly, salsa, Piccadilly or pickles this year? Bet it would sell at the Bake Sale! Candy goes well too. All volunteers and food donations will be appreciated!

Since the Bake Sale starts at 9:00 a.m, on Saturday, we won't have time to do much sorting and pricing on Saturday morning. Therefore, food items should be brought to the kitchen at church any time on Friday, October 13 or on Saturday, October 14 by 9:00 a.m. at the absolute latest. If you have questions, please contact Phil Stumbo at (865) 482-3048 or <a href="mailto:pstumbo@comcast.net">pstumbo@comcast.net</a>.



**Scholarships:** Applications are now being accepted for both the Raaen and Becky Ball Scholarships. Ask the church office for an application. Applications must be returned to the office no later than **October 6** to be considered.

The Administering Commission will review the applications and recommend those eligible for financial aid to Council for approval. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Administering Commission.





### **Baptism of Cyrus Nicholas Martin**

Congratulations on the baptism August 13 of Cyrus Nicholas Martin, son of Chelsea and Nick Martin and grandson of Debra and Robert Stewart. Sixteen members of Cyrus' family were present for this joyful occasion, conducted by Pastor Paula.

# September Birthdays

Kara	Bafford	09/01	Kristina Moua	09/19	
Marianne Johnson		09/08	Tina Schmitt	09/22	
Larry Sparks		09/08	Amber Slessinger	09/25	
Hannah Mustaffa		09/11	Robert Stewart	09/26	
Janie	Hiserote	09/13	Judy Goans	09/27	
Paul	Williams	09/14	Brianna Weber	09/29	
Claudia Lever 09/14  Jackie Rylander 09/16		09/14	If you have a name you would like to add to		
		09/16	the birthday list or a correction, please call the church office at 483-3787.		
Kenn	edy Weber	09/16			

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# September Happenings

**Our OLSE Spanish class** is indefinitely on hold until more students are interested. Please contact Nancy Munro if you would like to get involved in such a class.

Grace's ESOL classes welcome a new volunteer, Peter Bancroft, a retired attorney, to our midst. Peter has observed and assisted in Eunice Search's beginner classes, taken a workshop on teaching English sponsored by the Knoxville Internationals Network, and for starters will continue his involvement mainly in the morning beginners' classes. We are delighted to have Peter's help! Our classes have been slowly but steadily growing over the year.

Sunday School (Christian Education) for children and youth meet at 10:00 a.m. in Jacob's Ladder room. If you have any questions about youth Christian Education, please contact Donna Gurecki (865-599-1238).

The Adult Sunday School class has started. Beginning August 27, the adult class is viewing *The Second Thousand Years of Christianity*. This was a period as tumultuous as the first thousand years, encompassing the Reformation and spread of Christianity to the New World. We meet in Room 101 at 10 a.m. All are welcome. If you did not see Christianity, the First Thousand Years, the video is available in the church library. If you are interested, please let Betty Anne Domm (dommba148@gmail.com) know so that we will have enough books for everyone.

**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 signup 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.

**Grace Writers** resumes September 4. **Poetry Pie** meets September 25. Email Pat Hope for link.

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 aide to our sister Lutheran churches in Ukraine and several neighboring countries. You can help!

### **Call Committee Update**

The Call Committee is now in the interviewing process. The committee has received the names of four candidates to consider and will have interviewed each of them before the end of August. The committee is looking for a pastor that it feels would be a good fit for this congregation taking into consideration the responses to the survey. The five top qualities of a candidate the members indicated on the survey they would like in the next pastor are: help people develop their spiritual life, provide care & nurture, be an effective communicator, be effective in working with youth, bring joy and good humor to relationships.

The committee asks for your prayers for wisdom and discernment as it goes through the interview process.

2023 Guatemala Gathering is Thursday, September 14 at 10:00 a.m. There will be a 20 minute presentation here at Grace about how to support our companion synod ILAG in Guatemala and how to benefit MILAGRO Women's Education Center.

There is a fund-raiser dinner and friend-raiser for ILAG ministries, specifically for MILAGRO at Peace Lutheran Church starting at 5:30 p.m. Tickets \$25 per person. Click here to register for the event 2023 Guatemala Gathering - KNOX-VILLE AREA (brtapp.com)

# **Bouncy Picnic Fun in Hot August Sun**



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Summer Church Picnic was held Sunday, August 13.

Nurturing provided hamburgers and hot dogs, condiments, dessert and drinks. Members brought a dish to share. Kids enjoyed outdoor games and a bouncy house.



### SHARING ABUNDANCE STORIES - DISCOVERING GIFTS

### We are Blessed With Wonderful Staff

**Ruth Smiley** 

Grace Lutheran Church is blessed abundantly by our competent, talented, and dedicated staff members: Pastor Paula Smith, Secretary Pam Woodard, Music Director Slade Trammell, Organist David Ensley, and Sexton Kim Lorenz.

Pastor Paula is guiding us through this transition period between pastors. She gave everyone an opportunity to speak about moving the contemporary service to the sanctuary. Thus, the move was smoothly and successfully accomplished. In her sermons, Pastor Paula speaks directly and with complete candor about our responsibilities as church members. She knows our church history, and she understands us.

Secretary Pam Woodard serves as the face and voice of Grace when she welcomes visitors who come to the office. She answers the phone in her friendly and helpful manner. She manages the of-

fice efficiently, and she takes initiative in going ahead with tasks that need to be done.



Music Director Slade Trammell uses his many musical talents in directing the Praise Team, Chancel Choir and Ringspiration, playing the piano and the organ. He recruits church members to share their musical talents in church services. He responds positively when asked to do a special concert during the annual Flower Festival and other events.

# **Grace Wants Stories About Sharing Abundance**

As part of the emphasis on sharing abundance, the Stewarding Commission is looking for stories about how God has provided abundance in your life, especially in the context of the ministries of Grace Lutheran Church.

Organist David Hensley plays both the organ and the piano, as needed. He has also taken a character role in plays that are part of the church service. And when Pastor Paula was unable to attend church services because of illness, David preached the sermon!

Sexton Kim Lorenz works diligently to keep our church facilities clean and comfortable. It sometimes seems that she works around the clock—she is there to clean when one group leaves and before another group arrives.

We are truly fortunate to have this dedicated team of staff members at Grace. Let us thank God for them and remember to show our appreciation to each one.



### Grace Writers Returning to In-Person Meetings Sept. 4

Grace Writers will resume in-person meetings beginning Monday, Sept. 4 and on the first Monday of the month for the rest of the year. If you are writing non-fiction (essays, articles, memoir, children's writing, etc..) or Fiction (novels, science fiction, mystery, children's books) come and share some of your work with us.

Come join us in Room 101 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The theme for September is "Work." Contact Pat Hope for more info.

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### Anderson County Community Resource Fair is 'Uplifting' Experience



Crista and I went to the Anderson County Community Resource Fair Sunday, August 20, not knowing exactly what to expect.

For two and a half hours we got to be part of an event that was set up to help the community by sharing information about the services available to people in need but also to share with other groups what they provide.

It was a positive, uplifting experience. Everyone was pitching in to help each other with a smile on their faces. We talked to people we knew and people we didn't and heard that Grace is recognized in the community for ministries we provide.

We shared information on the Food Pantry, the Ecumenical Storehouse, and our ESOL classes. We gave out bags, pens and notepads with our logo and contact information. It was cool to see red bags moving all over the gym. We are already thinking about what to do next year. Thank you Neal Vaughan, for prodding us to go.

Janet Rawl

**Photo by Janet Rawl** 



# Special Summer Music



The summer at Grace has been filled with special music by our many talented musicians and singers, including Barbie Schmitt, David Ensley, and Robert and Debra Stewart.

Photos by Pat Hope

### Team Rubicon Participation Overwhelming Success

By Betty Anne Domm

I was privileged the last two weeks to see first-hand how Lutheran Disaster Response interacts with other volunteer organizations.

Pastor Ingrid Schalk is a member of the SES Disaster Response Team. She was contacted by Mary Jane Olhasso, chair of the East Tennessee VOAD, a voluntary consortium of recognized state volunteer organizations active in disaster relief. She asked Pastor Ingrid if there was a Lutheran church in the Oak Ridge area that could help feed workers who were staying here while helping to clean up tornado damage.

This group was Team Rubicon, a nationwide organization of military and EMS workers, who volunteer to come where there is a disaster or humanitarian need and help out. Although based out of Los Angeles, every area of the country has a team and equipment ready to move in as soon as they are asked to help. For the last year, the local group has been working to clean up, and help with recovery in the areas of Kentucky that have been devastated by floods and tornadoes. Many of the group are now headed to Maui to help with communication and infrastructure needs.

Kate Amaral, from Middle Tennessee, is the team coordinator for Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi and Louisiana. She sent out a call for help and men and women from as far away as Colorado and Florida responded to Knoxville's needs. The majority came from a 150 mile radius of Oak Ridge. Several of the team members actually live in Oak Ridge and West Knoxville. These were very hard workers. They were up and on the work site shortly after 7 each morning and they did not quit until 5:30 or 6 every night.

Our church was originally asked to provide breakfasts each morning. Because of your generosity, as well as other groups who wanted to help, they soon had all that they needed for breakfasts for the two weeks they were here. We continued to supply items like milk, orange juice, ice and other items that needed to be replenished regularly. We also volunteered to provide two dinners the second week the team was here. I have to give a huge shoutout to Jeff Sipes, Lisa's husband, who fixed a hot breakfast the first week and a pork tenderloin dinner the second week. His meals were greatly appreciated. We also treated the team to Big Ed's pizzas, salad, and ice cream this past Wednesday.

There were so many from Grace who contributed food, money, shopping, and hands to deliver the food. I don't even know who some of you were and I would almost certainly leave people out if I started trying to thank everyone. If you helped in any way, please know that Team Rubicon, the Southeastern Synod, and East Tennessee VOAD are all most appreciative of the help that Grace gave.

#### Dear Members of Grace:

Team Rubicon, the SE SYNOD Disaster Response Team and I are overwhelmed by your generosity and giving spirit!! You have exceeded what I knew you would do by a great margin! We cannot thank you enough.

At this time, we do not need anything more even though the team may have to extend their stay for a few days. You have answered the question, "Can we feed thirty people for a week?" with a resounding "YES!"

You are indeed the hands of Jesus. Many, many thanks to all who responded with food, money and your time. You have truly blessed the Lord.

In Christian love, Betty Anne Domm

Photos on Pages 14-15 provided by Betty Anne Domm



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Team
Rubicon
Feeding
30
People
for a
Week!





Above, serving Pizza on the 23rd, below Team Rubicon getting instructions before heading out for the day, at left, Mary Jane Olhasso from ET VOAD, Team Rubicon coordinator Kate Amaral, and Pastor Ingrid Schalk, SE Synod Disaster Relief Volunteer Coordinator, and Betty Anne Domm. Below left, one of the team members ready to go, and on Page 14, the living conditions at the Masonic Hall on Lafayette.



### **Grace Lutheran Church**

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### **Condolences**

August 19
Lila Storaasli
Olaf Storaasli's mother

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# Want to win a gift card? Find the three coffee cups.

In September, our thoughts turn to fall and the cooler weather ahead,

the perfect time to share a cup of coffee or tea with a good friend. See if you can find the three cups in this issue.

Please send the page numbers where you find them to Pat Hope (thetwohopes@aol.com) by Sept. 30. Only email or

text messages (865-310-0722) accepted. Prize to be awarded in Sept. **The one pictured here doesn't count.** 

The three hot dogs in August were on Pages 5,7, and 9.

#### Congratulations to past winners:

Pastor Paula — August Hot Dogs NO CONTEST IN JULY Anne Douglas — June Caps Rhonda Ashburn — May Hearts Janet Rawl — April Eggs Donna Hoglund — March Clocks Paula Smith — February Hearts Lorraine Huynh — January Hats