

February 2022



GRACE MESSENGER

WORSHIP:

Sunday— 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Monday—7:00 p.m.

Sunday School & Bible Study—9:15 a.m.

PASTOR WITTES' MESSAGE

As the calendar rolls through August, and September approaches, one can't help but begin to think of the end of summer. If you have kids in the house or grandkids nearby you're almost certainly in full back-to-school mode. The days are counting down to that first day of school and there is likely still plenty of school supplies to be gathered up. Perhaps you're also in a position where a last minute trip out of town to enjoy one more summer weekend is in store. If you love this warm Michigan summer there is still time to take some of it in until the cooler fall weather arrives.

My summer has been blessed with all sorts of wonderful events and memories made. In early July I was able to join our youth group to Houston for the National Youth Gathering. There we heard powerful messages reminding us that though we are broken and fallen in sin, we are more precious than gold or silver in Jesus Christ. Our Savior is the creator of all things good and He loves all that He has made.



(Continued on page 2)

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Grace will be hosting the annual picnic at Frenchtown Park on **Sunday, September 11**. The park is located at 2144 Stewart Rd. (before the Bluebush library & fire station). The picnic will begin around 12:30 p.m. (following the 10:30 a.m. service).

The Board of Parish Life will be supplying chicken & hotdogs. The Youth will be selling drinks. We are asking that members bring a dish to pass. There is a sign up sheet in the office, please mark how many of your family members plan to attend and what dish you would like to bring. Come join in the fun and visit with your church family.

FAMILY HAYRIDE AND FUN

The Board of Parish Life is sponsoring a hay ride at Trabbic Pumpkin Farm, 1560 E. Sterns Road, Erie on **Sunday, September 25th** at 2:30 p.m.

The price of \$8 per person includes hay ride, popcorn, a small pumpkin, cider and donuts. There is also a free corn maze and straw maze. There is a sign up sheet in the office.



(Continued "Pastor Witte's Message" from page 1)

Later in July I was blessed to travel down to Tennessee with all my family to celebrate my parents' 50th wedding anniversary. It was an uplifting week reminding and reinforcing for me the joy of time spent with family. Nothing beats watching my own kids enjoy time with their cousins.

At the beginning of August I was able to share a faith column in the Monroe News about "One Thing is Needed." It was based off of the Luke 10 passage where Jesus visits Mary and Martha. As Martha is upset about her sister Mary not helping with the hosting responsibilities Jesus tells Martha "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary... (Lk 10:41)"

I'm guessing you might agree in saying your life is similarly and currently full of anxiety and troubles. Three minutes watching the news or reading through a twitter feed is enough to send one's blood pressure high into the anxiety area. So I would encourage you to take Jesus' words to heart. One thing is necessary. When everything else in life is a source of stress, remember that in Jesus we have a sure and certain foundation. When other things in life just bring brokenness or it seems like everything else is falling apart, know that our Lord Jesus promises to return and restore all things new. He makes to us the promise of a new creation, an eternal life in Him. One thing is necessary and that one thing is Jesus. When we have Him we have it all.

God's Word is full of good news and more encouraging words just like this. You are most welcome and invited to join us in the weeks and months ahead to hear and partake of this one thing necessary in our Savior Jesus. Join with us as brothers and sisters to walk together in the love of Jesus and spread this love and good news through all our community.

Blessings, Pastor

News about Our Members

February 18-August 15, 2022

Baptisms:

Easton W. Stromberger	Feb. 28
Henry A. Grow	Aug. 14

Confirmations:

Noah Harmon, Emma Wigman, Seth Witte, Dawson Younglove & Lauryn Younglove	May 15
---	--------

Profession of Faith

Belle Gomez & Jacob Price	March 6
---------------------------	---------

Funeral

Cheryl Sheehan	March 17
Herman Moyer, Sr.	June 4
Jeanette Morris	July 9
Emily Rogers	July 30

Transfer Out:

David & Rose Ruhlig to Holy Ghost	April 21
Ryan, Marisa, Abbigayle, Abram & David Cunningham to Holy Ghost	June 1
Wayne, Julie & Ashley Waldecker to St. John's Waltz, New Boston	June 22

GRACE ONLINE GIVING

Please help us grow through electronic giving. Giving online is fast, easy, and secure. Never worry about bringing your checkbook or cash again—you can set up recurring payments, so your donations continue even when you forget or are on vacation.

1. Visit our website at: www.gracelutheranmonroe.org
2. Locate the Give Online button.
3. Donate!

If you need help setting up your online account for electronic giving, please call the church office at (734) 242-1401 and talk to Margaret, she will help you set your account up. To learn more about giving online or through our GivePlus mobile app, contact our church office.

PASTOR BOB AUXTER, SMP

"You did not come this far, just to come this far!"

There is a motivational quote that I have favored for a good number of years now, it goes like this- *"You did not come this far, just to come this far!"* It relates to that oft times human emotion of giving up on something when it gets too difficult to continue. I am sure we have all undertaken some type of endeavor in our lives of which we started out with all manner of good intentions, yet as time lengthened and the task became increasing more difficult to continue, our passion for that task began to quickly wane. Oft times we gave up, gave in, even surrendered. Maybe moved on to something less stress-filled, more manageable.

I researched the origin of this quote, finding that it is not authored by any one particular famous person in history. Actually, and I am not surprised, it is a spin-off of God's Word. Yes, the original *and* final Word on everything from 'A' to 'Z' and everything in between. It is a passage of God's Word as recorded in the apostle Paul's Letter to the Christian churches in Philippi- *"And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."* Philippians 1:6

Did you catch that comment- *"He who began a good work in you"*? He is the Lord God, the Creator, who not only willed your existence even before the first Word of creation was uttered, but also brought you into existence at this particular time in history, for such a time as this. You and I are purposed, and if purposed, then there are expectations of you and I.

God began a 'good' work in you and I, with expectations of that good work at His hands continuing until the completion of it.....all for good. He has blessed us in our baptisms with His Spirit, empowering and enabling this good work to succeed and be pleasing to Him.

He also sent His one and only Son, Jesus, the Christ, to secure everything necessary to continue that good work in us to the completion of His Day, that day of His 2nd Coming when all things, including our salvation will be fulfilled completely.

In other words- You did not come this far, just to come this far! Yes, we desire a better country, a better place to reside, other than the here and now, that place, Heaven, Home, God has prepared for us. You and I have a distance yet to sojourn....in faith, that God-gifted faith defined as *"...the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* Hebrews 11:1

In the Gospels, Jesus describes and examples our proper behavior during the remainder of our sojourn here and now. We are expecting Him to return at any time, so we live these days in the assurance of faith that He has not abandoned us. He walks with us every step and even carries us in His arms if necessary. He graciously answers our prayer and petition of *"Abide with me!"*

Abide with us, He does. Blessing us with grace and nourishment daily, with the enabling and empowering of the Holy Spirit to complete the good work began in us- that eternal relationship that we daily hold up for the world to see, encouraging others in our words and actions to investigate *this* Jesus as their Lord and Savior, being brought into this same relationship that you and I cherish above all things. That's our purpose; the 'good work' began in us.

We are ever mindful that He has brought us thus far and so we pray- *"Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His Holy Name. Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in You."* Psalm 33:20-22

My brothers and sisters in the faith, rest assured, be encouraged, for our God didn't bring you this far just to have you come this far! There is further to go, ample time left, and work to do. Amen?

Grace Lutheran Church
630 N. Monroe Street
Monroe, MI 48162-2935

*Please help us by
notifying us of
address changes.*



SEPTEMBER 2022

THE MESSENGER

BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday Morning Bible Study starting at 9:15 a.m.
in the gym.

Sunday School starts at 9:15 a.m. Preschool thru
5th grade meet in the fellowship hall; 6th thru
12th grade meets in the Youth Room, in the
parish house basement.

Monday Bible Studies will meet at 9 :00 a.m. in
the Fellowship Hall.

IMPACT For all 9th grade through young adult-
aged youth and friends on **Mondays** at 8 p.m.

Thursday Morning Bible Study meets at 9:30 a.m.
in the Classroom resumes September 8..

GRACE'S UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept. 11	Church Picnic
Sept. 25	Hay Ride (Trabbic)
Oct. 7	Bunco
Oct. 23	Voters Meeting (Budget)



Proclaiming God's *Grace*
through faith and love.