



Grace Notes

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH AT
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, CASTALIA, OH

JULY 2026

MINISTERING MATTERS AUGUST 2026

Many things are happening in August. Erie County Fair, harvesting starts (seems like we just planted), getting ready and starting back to school. It is called the "lazy days of summer". Not sure where the "lazy" came in, but it was meant to "switch off and ease off on normal activities particularly in August".

But, we know that God does not "ease off" on us and we should not ease off on Him. We should continually learn more, pray more, and serve more in our love for our Lord.

The Clown's Prayer

As I stumble through this life, help me to create more laughter than tears, dispense more happiness than gloom, spread more cheer than despair. Never let me become so indifferent that I will fail to see the wonder in the eyes of a child or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged. Never let me forget that my total effort is to cheer people, make them happy and forget – at least momentarily – all the unpleasantness in their lives.

And, in my final moment, may I hear You whisper: 'When you made My people smile, you made Me smile.' Author unknown

Many Blessings and Love to you. Go in peace and serve the Lord.
Minister Beth



MINISTRY UPDATES

COMMUNITY MEAL - Congratulations to Chris and Tim Neimeyer on their article in the last "Serving Our Seniors" newsletter featuring the work they do delivering meals to households in Erie County. You may recall that several years back, Lois Paule offered to start holding Community Meals where members brought their special dishes and people congregated in the Fellowship Hall for the meals. After that, Tim and Chris took over and were especially known for their delicious fried chicken meals. At this time, a substantial number of volunteers prepare and serve meals in a drive-thru fashion where monthly attendance ranges from 150-200 meals. For July, 200 meals were served and \$430 were donated to cover expense. Menu for August 12th will be Grilled Brats, Fresh Vegetables from our member's gardens, and a dessert. Please come and partake!

GRACE'S TABLE FOOD PANTRY - Our food pantry routinely provides boxes of food items, paper items and cleaning supplies to 40-55 families monthly, with an average of 194 people. In July we served 45 families with all the items listed above. Thank you to everyone who filled a blessing bag which we distributed in June. Thank you to everyone who devotes their time to pantry each month! It takes all of you to make it a successful ministry!

SEWING MINISTRY - Our sewing ministry continues to work the first, third, and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 9-11. Thank you to those who donate sheets, blankets, and fabric that are used to turn scraps into lovely blankets. At this time we have more than 70 quilts already packed. If you happen to be a sewer but would prefer to work from home, you are welcome to take fabric to create tops (60" x 80") and backing (64" x 84"). We can use the help!

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Though Sunday School will not be in session until September 20th, our children remain involved in worship and sometimes singing or serving as ushers. We rely on Wendy France to light altar candles although others are welcome to do it if they would like to volunteer. Plus, often some of the children help with the regular offering after filling the wagon with noisy offering. Our upcoming schedule is as follows: September 13- Activity for children on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday; September 20- Start of classes (Preschool-Elementary, Grades 5-6, Catechism -Grade 7-8); October 4th- Two younger classes will sing during worship.



HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

BETTY MEGGITT:
TODD MILLER:
MIKE BEECHLER:

The Commons of Providence, 5000 Providence Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870
Providence Care Center, 2025 Hayes Avenue, Sandusky, OH 44870
The Commons of Providence, 5000 Providence Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870

Please note: This list is comprised of individuals who have authorized their residence information to be published. If you are a member of Grace and would like to be placed on the homebound list, please contact Beth Kieffer in the office at 419-684-5059.

STAMP MINISTRY -Thank you for continuing to save your stamps! The income generated by this ministry goes to support the preparation, publishing and distribution of a Spanish language curriculum for Sunday schools. More than 50 lesson series have been published and are being used in churches of 40 different denominations and missions in 19 different Spanish speaking countries in South America, Central America, Spain and even the USA. A box to deposit your saved stamps is located in the coat room right off the sanctuary. Carol Pfeil handles the collection, cutting and delivery of the stamps to Alliance Stamp Ministry in Florida. Keep saving those stamps!!

An author writing in *Guideposts* magazine calls those nostalgic moments of memory "God's bonus days." LaVerne Sexton recalled that in her family, life's unexpected dividends — a summer rainbow, a blazing sunset, a gentle spring thaw — were invitations to set aside ordinary tasks and celebrate something special.

She remembered one breathtaking day from her childhood when the sky stretched wide and impossibly blue, as if it had no edges at all. Her father grabbed the fishing poles and called out, "Let's play hooky, hon. It's one of God's bonus days."

Marion R. Vuilleumier,
Meditations by the Sea



REMINDER:

The Caregiver group will meet on August 19th at 7PM in the Gathering Area. All are welcome to attend.



ANNOUNCEMENTS: Be sure to call or email your information for the weekly bulletin announcements to Brenda in the church office at BMacdonald@gracecastalia.org by **9AM on Thursday** at the latest. **Newsletter** announcements are due no later than the 20th of the month.

To have your prayer request placed on the Grace Prayer Chain, **please contact Lynne Yetter at 419-603-6759.**





AUGUST

S	M	T	W	
2 WORSHIP – 9AM	3	4	5 Sewing 9-11AM	
9 WORSHIP – 9AM	10	11 Circle 3 - 1:30PM	12 Community Meal 5-6PM	
16 WORSHIP – 9AM	17	18 Church Council - 7PM	19 Sewing 9-11AM Caregiver's Mtg. - 7PM	
23 WORSHIP – 9AM	24	25	26 Sewing 9-11AM	
30 WORSHIP – 9AM	31			

AUGUST READERS

- 2. Brenda Ried
- 9. Billy Bohn
- 16. Rich Henry
- 23. Joshua Pocock
- 30. Jean Smith

AUGUST ASSISTING MINISTERS

- 2. Lenny Kuns
- 9. Lenny Kuns
- 16. Joshua Pocock
- 23. Jane Ann Cummings
- 30. Rhonda Rice

2026

T	F	S
		1
6	7	8
13	14	15 Food Pantry 9-10AM
20	21	22
27	28	29

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2. Jim Johnson
4. Robin Koch
12. Jean Robinett
13. Kathy Bodi
15. Kande Sessler
17. Joshua Pocock
20. Martha Bosworth
23. Jordan Kuns
24. Jane Ann Cummings
25. Sheila Duffett, Wyatt Henry,
Brent Lander
28. Jim Floro



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

August 2: Suzi & Monty Kaufman
August 11: Kathy & Galen Damschroder
August 11: Kaye & Larry Krogh
August 18: Paula & Pete Klonek
August 18: Kande & Tim Sessler
August 22: Heather & Jason Kehres
August 22: Fran & Chuck Warner
August 23: Marion & Terry Perkins
August 24: Lisa & John Steager
August 25: Joanne & Mike Shelley

AUGUST USHERS

- Jack & Brenda Ried
- Billy Bohn
6. Dave & Kathy Bodi
3. Rod Smith
0. Judy Estep

AUGUST FLOWERS

2. OPEN
9. Kaye & Larry Krogh
16. Beth & Jim Kieffer
23. Lenny Kuns Pulpit: Yetters
Perkins
30. Teresa & Jim Floro

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 S. Washington Street
Castalia, OH 44824

GRACE GROWS DISCIPLES.

Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we **WORSHIP** the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, **WITNESS** to God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ, **WELCOME** all into our community of faith.

Our website address: www.GraceCastalia.org

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS: BMacDonald@gracecastalia.org

PHONE: 419-684-5059