

August 2022

WORDS OF GRACE

Monthly Newsletter

Inside the Issue

THIS MONTH'S PASTOR'S PAGE...

Pastor Brad shares some thoughts about knowing God. He examines what it means to truly trust and obey God with our entire life... not just with "head knowledge."

LADIES, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Exciting news, ladies! Another special gathering is in the works for this fall. Take a few moments to view this sneak peek and save the date in your calendars.

DON'T MISS THESE NEWS & NOTES!

- Prayer Saturation Opportunity
- YOUTH Summer Schedule
- Road trips & Woodworking!
- Scramble for the Homeless
- Gospel Music Festival

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS...

- Aug. 1-5 Vacation Bible Camp (8:45-11:45am)
- Aug. 3 **NO YOUTH MEETING TODAY!**
- Aug. 7 Worship with Communion
Martin Family visiting & potluck luncheon.
- Aug. 8 **Fellowship Hall floor redo begins!**
Elders Meeting, 6:30pm
- Aug. 10 Youth Outing to Bay Beach, 1:30pm
- Aug. 14 Bell Family visiting! Lunch at Pizza Ranch to follow Coffee Fellowship
- Aug. 15 Elders Fellowship, 6:30pm
Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm
- Aug. 17 Youth White Water Rafting Trip, 11:30am
- Aug. 24 Last Summer Youth Meeting at Grace, 5:30pm
- Aug. 27 Youth Nerf Event at Grace, 7:00pm
- Aug. 31 Worship Celebration Dress Rehearsal, 6:00pm

See the bulletin board @Grace, the weekly email from the Office or the website (www.gracechurchfd.org) for the Softball Schedule!

"Life breaks, and hearts break, and our stories break, but nothing can break the redemptive storylines of God"

- Ann Voskamp

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRAD



Dear Grace Family,

Keith Bestul's message preached on July 3rd, asked us a question that arose out of the situation that Jehoshaphat found himself in when surrounded by the Moabite and Ammonite armies. (See 2 Chronicles 20:1-23)

The question was...

"God is all in.... are you?"

If we are to honestly answer, we must take an account of our relationship with God and ask ourselves frankly whether we know God well enough to trust Him and obey Him with our entire life. By this, I do not mean "know," like we have some degree of head knowledge through reading the Bible or doing Bible study or reading commentaries or listening to a podcast of well-known and gifted preachers. Those things are all fine.

The "know" that Peter is talking about in 2 Peter 1:1-4 is the knowledge of a man and woman in marriage who over time and constant communion with one another through difficulties and triumphs have come to know the inner being that makes up the person, the strengths and weaknesses of a person and despite it all, to trust the person that they have covenanted with.

"Knowing" in Peter's use of the word is deep, personal, and focused specifically on the object that *is being known* rather than on the one doing the knowing. In other words, when we seek to know God, it becomes a seeking *that is all about Him* and not about what it can do for us. It displays itself in our lives through the faith we act upon when we do what He asks us to do even when it is not convenient or does not seem to make sense to us.

How many of us would choose to be deserted by our Father, betrayed by our friends, imprisoned, shamed, beaten, and executed for the sake of knowing God better? (Sound familiar?)

On the other hand, how many of us want to be considered "children of God" and to look at God and say, "daddy." Both of those involve "knowing." (See also John 15:12-14).

A while ago I posed the following scenario:

If God never answered another prayer you prayed... If he never helped you through another difficult time with a positive outcome... If everyone you knew, including your family, disowned you because of your love for God...

Would you still say you love Him and that you want to know Him more?

I believe that we see Peter's answer in his letter.

"Yes, I would still love Him and want to know Him because I long for that grace and peace, which is only found in His righteousness, to be multiplied in my life. I know that as I sit in this prison cell that my life is ending. Let me remind you of what is of primary importance....

Knowing God....

for it will help you to dispute the false teachings that are coming into the church, to overcome the temptations of the world that seek to cause you to abandon Christ and withstand the constant battling of your own sinful desires against the Holy Spirit who abides in you.

Let us, Grace church, seek to know God!

NEWS & NOTES

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JOIN US AS WE COVER GRACE IN PRAYER!

In 2015, we, as a congregation, went through a visioning process, and identified three major areas we wanted to prioritize through our ministries and church life. They were disciple-making, ministry to the next generation, and prayer saturation. Our **Prayer Saturation Team** was a result of that visioning process. Since the beginnings of this team and ministry, the goal has been to touch every ministry/program at Grace and bathe each and every one in prayer on a constant and consistent basis. While we have many areas and leaders covered, there are still many more without a prayer partner. Please consider joining our team and praying specifically for a ministry or leader on a regular basis. For more information, contact Melanie Christenson, Bonnie Springborn, Rick Titel, or Karen Scherer. Visit our website (www.gracechurchfdl.org/worship-prayer) to watch a video testimony from two current prayer partners about their experience. We look forward to growing this team and fulfilling our vision of Grace Church becoming a house of prayer.

don't forget!

Our special Missionary guests Regan & Mellie Martin & their family will be joining us on Sunday, August 7th! Join us for worship then for a potluck after coffee fellowship. Sandwiches & chips will be provided, we just ask that each family bring a salad or dessert to share (enough for 12 people!) **If you missed the deadline to sign up please contact the Office by Friday, Aug. 5th at 11:00am**



SUNDAY, AUG. 7TH IS THE LAST DAY TO DONATE TO OUR "CHANGE A LIFE" PROJECT! We will be presenting the check to the Bells when they are visiting us in person on Sunday, Aug. 14th! Donation boxes are located at the Connection Center (Info Booth) and up in the Fellowship Hall. All of the money goes to support Mahali Pa Maisha in Kenya.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us on Sunday, August 14th as we hear an update from the Bells IN-PERSON during our worship service! You are also invited to join them at Pizza Ranch for lunch together after the coffee fellowship time for an extended time of discussion & connection.



Mark your calendars: This year's WORSHIP CELEBRATION is scheduled for Saturday, September 10th & Sunday, September 11th.

Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution is coming up on Thursday, Aug. 11th! Located at Grace Christian Church, corner of 4th St. & City K. Doors open at 4:00pm for check in. Distribution begins at 4:30. \$25 cash donation will supply you with an abundance of groceries. For specific details go to www.gccfdl.org/rubys!



17th Annual "Voices of Peace" Gospel Music Festival

**Fri. August 19
Sat. Aug 20, 2022,**
at the Hilbert Civic Park located
on Highway 57/32, in Hilbert, WI.



The "Voices of Peace" will host their 17th annual Gospel Fest from 11:00am-7:00pm on Friday, and from 10:00am-7:00pm on Saturday. No admission fees will be charged, just a freewill donation. 100% of that money goes back to the bands. Please no coolers. Food, snacks & refreshments will be available on the grounds. There will be many performing groups, playing country, bluegrass, and southern gospel music. Bring your lawn chairs, bring your family, and be ready for a wonderful, spirit-filled weekend!

SUMMER YOUTH SCHEDULE

- **Aug. 3: NO YOUTH MEETING!** -Instead come volunteer at Vacation Bible Camp!
- **Aug. 10: Bay Beach Trip** -Meet @GEFC at 1:30pm. Returning at 8:30pm. Bring cash for tickets.
- **Aug. 17: White Water Rafting on Peshtigo*** -Meet @GEFC to leave at 11:30am. Returning at 9:00pm. Cost is \$20 and money for McDonald's supper.
**Must be pre-registered with Brad as limited spots are available.*
- **Aug. 27: Last Summer Youth Meeting @GEFC** - 5:30-7:00pm. Supper is included!
- **Sat. Aug. 27: Nerf War** - @GEFC 7:00-10:00pm. Bring your nerf guns, bullets,, etc AND **one of** a bag, box, container, plate of a snack to share.

GET CONNECTED TO LIFE AT GRACE! To be "in the loop" with all the latest information and details about events, ministries and opportunities, even the prayer chain, be sure you are on our email list! Contact the church office to "Plug In"! Email Carol at office@gracechurchfdl.net, or Rachel at cmc@gracechurchfdl.net, or call the church office at (920) 922-7211



ROAD TRIPS & WOODWORKING!

SEE HOW SOME OF OUR GRACE GUYS HAVE BEEN REACHING OUT INTO OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND...

The Thursday Morning Men's Group recently attended a tour of the new Rawhide facility in Fond du Lac. They also took a trip to **Rick's Toybox, Inc.** in Green Bay, WI. to review the operations of how to make a toy car. Rick's Toybox was recently featured on local Green Bay TV stations for it's work in making toy cars for local police departments, underprivileged kids in foreign countries, etc. The Men from Grace who are blessed with the gift of wood working are partnering with Rick's Toybox to help produce some of these cars for Ukrainian refugees. So far they've produced 25 prototypes for Rick's Toybox to verify the quality of their products and ensure the specifications have been followed. If you are someone who enjoys woodworking & this project sounds like something you'd like to help with please contact Art Wegner: artwegner@att.net. **If you are looking for a Men's Group to join consider this your personal invite! They gather Thursday mornings at Grace beginning at 8:00am for Coffee Fellowship and Prayer. No sign up required. They'd love to have you!**



SCRAMBLE FOR THE HOMELESS

August 14, 2022
at Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Scramble for the Homeless is a fundraiser to support the **Salvation Army Warming Shelter**, sponsored by Higher Level Camps (Cheryl Mohr, CEO). The event includes 9 or 18 holes of Golf, with pin prizes, cart, balls, lunch, and social. Sign up with a team, or have them assign you to one. **Not a golfer?** Sponsor a hole or attend silent auction and lunch. To register visit: www.rollingmeadowsgolfcourse.com/events/inner-rhythm-golf-outing or pick up a paper form from the Info Board at Grace.

Questions? Contact Cheryl Mohr: info@higherlevelcamps.com or 920-929-9008



Monthly Reflection

Ladies, you're invited!

Women's Breakfast & Fellowship

Saturday, September 17, 2022

Grace Evangelical Free Church
163 18th St, Fond du Lac, WI

Our theme:

Fall

*A Season of
Fruitfulness*

All women, middle school age and up are invited to join us for this special time of food and fellowship. Our gathering will begin at 8:45am on Sat. September 17th.

Tickets will be available beginning on Sun. August 21st. They will be \$8 each and can be purchased in the church lobby.

The deadline to sign up is Sunday, September 11th.

Contact the Office for additional information:
office@gracechurchfdl.net or (920) 922-7211



The Anchor Holds

by Jack Witte

“Good morning ... this is God ... I will be handling all of your problems today”

At a recent trip to our Christian Bookstore, I noticed the above inscription on a wooden cutting board, and it caught my attention. Wouldn't it be great if upon awakening each morning we would hear God, in His own voice say these words. It's great to imagine what this would be like, but more importantly we need to realize that these words are in fact what God does say to us each morning. We hear God's voice through His gift called faith. If we do not have faith, then we will never sense God's presence nor will we hear Him speak to our hearts through His Holy Spirit. That is why we need to grasp the truth in this simple inscription... the above words are true. God wants us to realize that He in fact will be handling all of our problems.

To the believer facing a difficult medical procedure this morning, God promises that He will handle every part of what you're facing. The anxiousness, the worry, the pain... HE WILL HANDLE THEM! To the student cramming for that all important test, God will supply you with the strength and wisdom you will need to pass the test, and when the worries and concern come upon you... HE WILL HANDLE THEM! To the Pastor who struggles with the concerns of leading his flock, while trying to give every bit of attention to his own family ... the weariness and the sometimes hopeless feeling ... HE WILL HANDLE THEM! To the elderly believer who struggles with the loneliness of a nursing home and wonders if anyone really thinks or cares about them... The feelings of being deserted by your loved ones and the feelings of helplessness... HE WILL HANDLE THEM!

This morning God knows the needs of each of us and He welcomes us to this new day with this message... “Good morning... this is God... I'll be handling all of your problems today” It is for us to have the faith to hear Him and it is for us to believe and put our complete trust in Him. Psalm 56:3 reminds us “When I am afraid... I will put my trust in Thee!” And Joshua 1:9... “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous; be not afraid, neither be dismayed... for the LORD your GOD is with you wherever you go!”

Heavenly Father, we welcome You into this new day. Through Your Holy Spirit Your words ring clear ... that You will handle whatever trials and difficulties come our way. We surrender this day to Your care and keeping, remembering that You are our Anchor, You will never fail those who believe and trust in You.

“Since before time began ... no one has ever imagined, no ear has heard, no eye has seen, a God like You who works for those who wait for Him.” Isaiah 64:4 (MSG)

The Old Testament of the Bible is full of verses regarding the word “wait”, and our ability to do just that. I find that one of the most difficult things for me to do is to wait. I think I am like many of you who read the “Anchor” and if you are honest with yourself, you will agree with me. It is our human nature to not want to wait for anything. When you pull up to the stop light, we want the light to change. We don't want to wait. When we are in the Doctor's office, we want to get in on time and often the fifteen minutes we need to wait, seems like an hour. Likewise, when we pray for something, we ask God to act on it now, we don't want to wait for Him to move in His timing.

I looked this up. The word “wait” in the Bible is often called “qavah”, or “yachal” in Hebrew meaning to look patiently, wait expectantly, to hope, expect, or look eagerly. Time and time again God's Holy Word stresses the importance of our waiting. I think God must sometimes wonder why I am so impatient with Him, and I thank God that He shows the patience with me that He does, for on so many occasions He has had to wait on me. Nothing tries our faith like having to wait for God to answer our prayers. Waiting tests our faith in our Trustworthy Authority ... God. There are somethings you and I can do to help us as we wait upon God and His direction.

We can wait prayerfully. “Lord, tell me Your ways ... show me how to live ... Guide me in Your truth ... and teach me my God, my Savior.” (Psalm 25:4-5) We can wait with strength and courage. “Wait for the Lord's help, be strong and brave and wait for the Lord's help.” (Psalm 27:14) We can wait with hope and trust. “So, our hope is in the Lord, He is our help, our shield to protect us, We rejoice in Him ... because we trust His Holy Name.” (Psalm 33:20-12) We can wait for God patiently. “Be still and know that I am God!” (Psalm 46:10) We can wait for God eagerly. “The sufferings we have now are nothing compared to the great glory that will be shown to us.” (Romans 8:18) We can wait with God obediently. “I am waiting for You to save me Lord, I will obey Your commands.” Fill your heart and mind with the excitement of knowing that God will honor your prayers in His course of time, and that you can wait expectantly for His blessings to come.

Your Anchor will hold ... in spite of your storms!



163 18th Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
office@gracechurchfdl.net
www.gracechurchfdl.org

CORPORATE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:

Sunday mornings at 8:45am
Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm
Wednesday AM Men's prayer at 6:30am.

*All meet at
Grace Church
building*

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd - *Jesus Christ*

Lead Pastor - *Brad Rutherford*

cell: 313-0456 email: rutherford@gracechurchfdl.net

Associate Pastor - *Grant Baumgart*

cell: 948-6373 email: baumgart@gracechurchfdl.net

Administrative Assistant - *Carol Blain*

phone: 922-7211 email: office@gracechurchfdl.net

Communications/Media Coordinator - *Rachel Titel*

email: cmc@gracechurchfdl.net

Custodian - *Mark Jopling*

phone: 922-7211 cell: (920) 979-3944

Custodial Assistant - *Jen Koenigs*

Elder on Call: Friday, Saturday & Sunday

(920) 948-9262

Offering & Attendance

6/7/2022	\$8,014	190
6/14/2022	\$3,175	Walleye Wknd
6/21/2022	\$1,000	160
6/28/2022	\$18,758	187

June Weekly Ave: \$7,736.75 179

**Weekly average needed to meet budget
\$10,142**

Year to Date Givings \$477,705
Year to Date Expenses \$499,016

SHORTFALL: -\$21,311

Totals reflect June month-end totals

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit information for the
September *Words of Grace*
to the church office by **August 15th**.
You can contact the office at (920) 922-7211 or
office@gracechurchfdl.net

Office Hours are:

**Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm
Friday 8:00am-11:30am**