

August 2023



WORDS OF GRACE

Monthly Newsletter "Lite" Edition

Inside the Issue

A "LITE" SUMMER WORDS OF GRACE

As you can see this newsletter looks a little different. With the craziness of summer we decided a "lite" edition would be perfect for August. Take a peek and enjoy!

ADVENTURE IS UP AHEAD!

"Keepers of the Kingdom" is this year's VBC theme, focusing on the "Armor of God". We are looking for donations of food and other items. Learn more about our summer adventure on page 2.

BLESSINGS FROM ABOVE

This month's Reflection is brought to you by Carol Bauer (see pg. 3). Hear some of her thoughts about blessings and the different forms that they take in our lives.

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS...

- July 31-Aug 4 VBC Week, 8:45-11:45am
- August 4 Youth Nerf War, 7:30pm
- August 6 Worship Service with Communion
- August 7 Elders Meeting, 6:30pm
- August 9 Youth Mauthe Lake Outing, 9:30am
- August 11 Youth at the Dock Spiders, 6:35pm
- August 16 Youth at Grace, Chosen Ep. 7, 5:30pm
- August 17 Youth Outing to Bay Beach, 10:30am
- August 21 Elders & Deacons Fellowship & Meeting, 6:00pm



PLEASE NOTE: WEEKLY STAFF MEETINGS ARE USUALLY MONDAY MORNINGS AT 8:30AM

"How you spend your moments adds up to how you spend your one life."

- Ann Voskamp



NEWS & NOTES

Connecting with GRACE Membership Class

Interested in learning more about Grace? Join us for our next "Connecting with Grace" Membership Class. This no-strings attached gathering is a great way to hear more about our church family and get to know our Elders. Stop by the Connection Center to add your name to the list today!

SAVE
THE DATE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: THIS YEAR'S WORSHIP CELEBRATION IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH.

France
2023

Time is flying by! Our team of eight (Grant & Rebekah Baumgart, Hope DelPonte, Lily Hernandez, Anna Murphy, Diane Nick, Rachel Titel, & Leah Tweedy) are preparing for their upcoming missions trip from October 5th-16th to Nice, France. Please pray for the team regarding ministry opportunities while there and God's continual provision & protection. If you are interested in supporting the team, please contact Pastor Grant at baumgart@gracechurchfdl.net

Interested in having your name on our Birthday and Anniversary List? See someone missing? Please contact the Office at office@gracechurchfdl.net or at (920) 922-7211 and help keep our list up-to-date.



SCRAMBLE FOR THE HOMELESS August 6, 2022 at Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Scramble for the Homeless is a fundraiser to support the **Salvation Army**, sponsored by Higher Level Camps (Cheryl Mohr, CEO). The event includes 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 the 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: cheryl@higherlevelcamps.com or 920-960-7411

18th Annual "Voices of Peace" Gospel Music Festival

**Fri. August 18
Sat, Aug 19, 2023,**
at the Hilbert Civic Park located
on Highway 57/32, in Hilbert, WI.



The "Voices of Peace" is hosting the 18th annual Gospel Fest from 11:00am-7:00pm on Friday, and from 10:00am-7:00pm on Saturday. No admission fees, a freewill donation will be received. 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!

We are still looking to assist our longtime Grace Family member, **Peter Stotzheim**, with meals on the weekends and to have people visit throughout the week. If you are interested in providing a meal please use this link: www.mealtrain.com/trains/o9mqmd to sign up via MealTrain. NEW DATES have been added to the calendar through September! Pete has been LOVING the home cooked meals and is so appreciative. If you are interested in helping with visits, call/email the church office: (920) 922-7211, office@gracechurchfdl.net



- **Aug. 2: Youth Meeting** @GEFC Building 5:30-7:00pm
- **Aug. 9: Mauthe Lake & Ice Cream at Hamburger Haus**, 9:30am-4:30pm. Lunch is included, bring \$\$ for Ice Cream.
- **Aug. 11: Dock Spiders Game** @6:35pm
- **Aug. 16: Youth Meeting** @GEFC Building 5:30-7:00pm
- **Aug. 17: Bay Beach**, 10:30am-5:30pm. Lunch is included, bring sunscreen and \$\$ for tickets.
- **Aug. 23: Youth Meeting** @GEFC Building 5:30-7:00pm

Wednesday Night Youth meetings at Grace are from 5:30-7:00pm. The study will be "The Chosen, Season 3", with supper and discussion.



IT'S ALMOST TIME!

You still have time to get your kiddos and grandkids signed up for our 2023 Vacation Bible Camp taking place Monday, July 31-Friday, August 4. At "Keepers of the Kingdom" we'll learn how to be part of God's kingdom & be equipped with the armor of God to stand strong in today's battle for truth. With



activities, snacks and lots more your kids will have a blast making memories to last a lifetime! Use the QR code or visit our website to register: www.gracechurchfdl.org/registration. You can also visit our Facebook page or pick up postcards & posters from the Connection Center to share and invite your friends & family.

HELP FEED OUR HUNGRY TRAVELERS!

As you can imagine, feeding a whole castle full of people can be draining and require lots of items to be fully prepared. That's why we're looking for your help in supplying donations for VBC! We have a large list of food items needed to feed both the kids & helpers during VBC. **A signup sheet is at the Connection Center with details.** Please stop by and see how you can contribute. Be sure to check the deadlines for when items need to be returned to the church building. You can also contact Fran Trewin with questions. As always monetary donations are welcome. They will go towards any additional food items, craft supplies & other items needed for the week. There will be a donation bucket at the Connections Center for cash or checks, or you can give online from our website homepage—Click the "GIVE" tab at the top of the page.

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 are disciple-making, ministry to the next generation, and prayer saturation. Our Prayer Saturation Team was a result of that process. Since the beginnings of this team and ministry, the goal has been to bathe each and every ministry/program at Grace in prayer on a constant and consistent basis. While we have many areas and leaders covered, there are still many without a prayer partner. Please consider joining our team and praying specifically for a ministry or leader on a regular basis. For more info, contact Melanie Christenson, Bonnie Springborn, or Rick Titel. We look forward to growing this team and fulfilling our vision of Grace Church becoming a house of prayer.

Monthly Reflection

Blessings From Above

by Carol Bauer

I have read and been told that blessings come in different forms. There are the ones we gladly hold out our hands to accept and enjoy, "Sure I'll take that one", and then there are the ones that are grievous and painful that we struggle to accept.

We make a fist and do not extend our open hand, "Please, not that one Lord."

What can be even more difficult is that these blessings do not always seem to be given out equally. We may find ourselves continually in that later blessing category while we watch others eagerly accepting blessings of the first form with an open hand. We can become bitter and hold it against the one who is blessed so favorably and question God's love for us. We can compare and compete turning it into a battle of considerable proportion, stealing our sense of contentment and joy. We may not even realize it is happening because the Deceiver is subtle and sneaky. We may not recognize it until it has a strong foothold in our mind and heart.

Firstly, if you find yourself in a place of struggle, realize that we all face trials of varying degrees. That is what much of this life consists of, but it is not God's ultimate plan for His creation. We were designed by a Creator who has a plan to restore our brokenness - all of it, in every way, and for eternity. As a Christ follower we will hopefully come to trust that our Father knows us so well and loves us so deeply that we can accept either type of blessing eagerly. It is in opening our fist to those grievous blessings that we learn just who we are in Christ and know His deep love for us.

Secondly, if you find yourself in a place of comfort and ease, you have a great responsibility.

When you encounter anyone who has been required to accept a blessing that causes grief, be sensitive to their needs. Unfortunately, we can unknowingly contribute to someone's struggle with bitterness and jealousy when we continually report how lovely our life is. Understand that not everyone is on a road they would choose for themselves, and it can be painful to hear about those who are. A listening ear and a sensitive spirit are invaluable to a hurting, broken heart.

I am always in awe when I remember how God has brought me through some painful experiences where I was required to open my fist to accept a blessing I did not want. But when I did, He met me with unconditional love even at my lowest points. He then ultimately provided healing and restored my faith through the blessing of trials. It is in those times that I better understood the value of accepting all **Blessings from Above.**





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CORPORATE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:

Sunday mornings at 8:45am
Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm
Wednesday AM Men's prayer at 6:00am.

*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 and Attendance
numbers for the month of June
will be coming at a later time.*

*Thank you for your
understanding!*

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