

GRACE NEWS

Reaching out, caring for, and building up people toward maturity in Christ



May Celebrations

We have a number of opportunities to celebrate God's grace and blessings in our lives during the month of May. Please place these special days on your calendar and plan now to celebrate with us at Grace!

- Mother's Day, May 12: Honor your mother, grandmother, wife, daughter or girlfriend with a special gift, compliments of Grace! All ladies present in worship on Sunday, May 12, will receive a beautiful long-stemmed Carnation.
- Confirmation, May 19: This year we will have 2 young people publicly confess their faith and commitment to Jesus and His Church on Confirmation Sunday. We are pleased to honor this year's confirmands:
Andy Belles
Andrew Cornell
- Grace on the Green Event, May 25th - Red, White and Blue BBQ. Starts at 5pm. Food, fellowship, games and music while we honor our military and celebrate our community and nation. Make plans now to attend. See Denise Miller or Pastor Terry to find out how you can help!
- Graduation Sunday, May 26: If you or someone you love is graduating, we want to recognize all your/their hard work and honor these accomplishments. Please send a photo with details to either leia@gracecelebration.org or jean@gracecelebration.org before May 20th.

GRACE ON THE GREEN

What's more fun than sitting on your front lawn with family, friends, food, music and games? How about doing it with your church family, neighborhood friends, real Memphis BBQ, multiple games and activities from which to choose, and a live band!

That's what's in store for us this summer and fall at Grace on the Green!

Here are the dates and themes:

Saturday, May 25 = RED, WHITE & BLUE BBQ

Saturday, June 30 = SUMMER BEACH PARTY

Saturday, August 17 = ELVIS WEEK TRIBUTE

Saturday, October 12 = OKTOBERFEST

All of these events will take place on the front lawn of Grace, and we need your help to make Grace on the Green something that our community will enjoy and get excited about.

If you can help in any way (even by just hanging out), please contact the church office, Pastor Terry, Pastor Jim, or Denise Miller.

GRACE'S VISION STATEMENT

(This is a work in progress, but here is what we have so far. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please share them with your Executive Team or our Pastors.)

*"For by **GRACE** you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...." Ephesians 2:8*

Grace is why we're here....only by Grace Alone are we saved, and it is this Grace we are called to share with all people (Matthew 28:19).

Grace is **why** we're here....making disciples by baptizing and teaching others to trust in Jesus and obey everything that He has commanded us.

Grace is why **we're** here....God has given the task of sharing the Good News of His Grace to us, redeemed human beings, who by God's Grace belong to His Church.

Grace is why we're **here**....God has called us by name to this place (Cordova, TN) and to wherever He will lead us to go. "Here" to Worship, "Here" to Serve, "Here" to make disciples. "Here" to do His Works, which He has prepared for us to do! (Ephesians 2:10)

GRACE IS WHY WE'RE HERE....

Financial Update... by Dave Borchardt, Treasurer

Financial results for March are bit of an anomaly due to the preschool transition and timing of certain revenues and deposits. To some extent, that is always the case, but for March is more acute than I've seen recently. The overall story for March and Year To Date is that cash dropped another \$14,085, and since June 2018 the total drop has been \$56,000 or \$6,222 per month. Most of this is due to preschool operations and declining enrollment/tuition. March month end cash balance was \$96,850, with \$6,942 for designated purposes (youth fundraising, outreach, etc.) leaving \$89,908, or roughly 7-8 weeks of operating expense cash on hand.

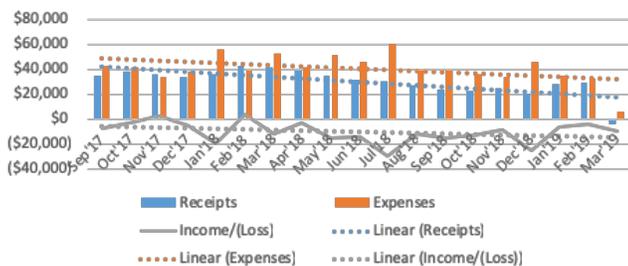
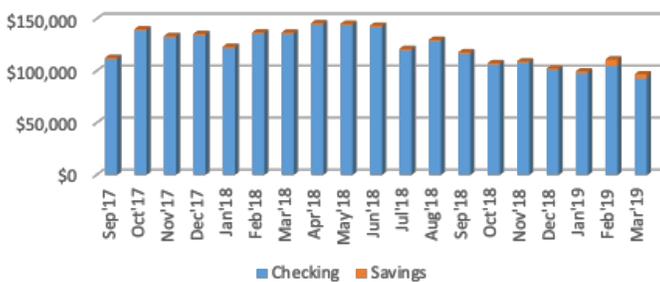
The church operating statement is relatively healthy YTD, but general offerings were down in both January and March. For March, some is due to timing since the 5th Sunday was also the last day of the month. Because we operate mostly on a cash basis for financial reporting, these will be reflected in April when they were deposited. Additionally, expenses spiked starting March because previously allocated expenses between preschool and church are now borne largely by the church alone (utilities, lawn service, trash, janitorial, internet, etc.). These shared expenses will be reimbursed ~75% by the YMCA on a one-month lag. Overall, the church lost \$4,173 in March.

The final operating statement for the preschool reflects a double-counting of February revenue adjusted in March (\$4,158) and "shut down" costs of \$5,677. Combined, the preschool lost \$9,835 in March. I expect this will be the final operating statement for Grace Celebration Preschool.

I expect April to be better due primarily to YMCA cash reimbursements and timing of offering deposits. However, we remain in a very precarious financial position and must remain good stewards of all resources God has given us. My ask is that you honestly evaluate your personal financial situation, and whether or not you have accepted God's promise of blessings when you tithe. As far as I know, it is the only place in the Bible God invites us to test Him. The blessing may or may not be financial, but from personal experience, I know he keeps His promise and you WILL be blessed. TRUST HIM!

In His service,

Dave Borchardt, Treasurer



Our God Provides... By Pastor Jim



Fear from want

Norman Rockwell was an artist who depicted 20th century American culture for the once popular magazine called the "Saturday Evening Post."

Rockwell was a New Englander who made famous a series of works called the Four Freedoms which were inspired by President Franklin Roosevelt's 1941 State of the Union speech. These were oil paintings completed in 1943 and include Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Fear and Freedom from Want.

In Rockwell's day, being in want meant hunger or a lack of shelter. Today most of us rarely consider these possibilities. Waste not want not - remember that phrase?

The fact is we are left in want more than we know. Our want speaks from our human depravity, our inability to sustain ourselves emotionally and physically. Ironically in our country, in the midst of our abundance we cry out for more. A little bit more! We need more to satisfy a heart that cannot be filled with all the sights, sounds and sensations that surround

us. A lifetime is not enough. Proverbs tells us "never satisfied are the eyes of man."

The bible addresses why we are chased by the demons that rob us of our freedom from want. You don't have to read many chapters in the bible before the cause is disclosed. Genesis Chapter 3 speaks loudly to our condition. Our parents, Adam and Eve had it made! They lived in a beautiful garden where they enjoyed a loving relationship with God, each other and all of creation. There was no death, there was no want or fear and worship and speech were free and fulfilling.

I think you know how the story goes. Sin entered into human existence by the deception of Satan. God's word was questioned, God's word was disregarded. Judgement came and it was not just a partial deformity, it crept into all aspects of our lives; our emotions, intellectual understanding and extended into the entire world around us.

And then at the point of deep darkness, God reached out and he made a covenant with mankind. It was a

Our God Provides... (cnt.)

promise to send a redeemer through the woman who would crush the head of the Satan the serpent. The promise became God made flesh. God had a provision to save us from our destruction. It was the promise of a savior named Jesus.

In John 21:1-19 the disciples encounter the resurrected Jesus for a third time. What was the state of the disciples thinking? At first they don't recognize him. Then when they do they are awkward in their interaction. Peter puts on his clothes and dives into the water! There on shore Jesus, fully God and fully man, provides for them. He tells them to cast their nets to the side and the haul is so great they have trouble bringing it in. Miraculously, the net doesn't break and 153 fish are caught. Wow! Do you like that number? It stuck in John's mind. On shore Jesus has a meal cooking for them.

But man does not live by bread alone! We need the real food that the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ provides. We need forgiveness for eternal life and restoration of our

relationship with God. We need his grace that comes from his suffering on the cross. We need our sins purged by a loving and generous God who took our sin upon him at Calvary. For all of those gifts we have a great God.

The gospel story ends in a famous exchange between Peter and Jesus. This is the restoration for which we speak. Peter denied him three times even after he had boldly pledged his life for Jesus. In his guilt and shame he fell into a bitter place. He needed the forgiveness that only Jesus could provide.

In all the challenges in our lives our God provides for us. He provided the food for the disciples that day and he provided the forgiveness and the strength to sustain Peter in his calling throughout his earthly life. Our God is all about grace. It's a grace that he extends to all of us through faith in Jesus Christ. Our God provides for us in every way fulfilling our deepest needs. He gives us true freedom from want, for the psalmist tells us plainly "The Lord is my shepherd I shall not be in want!"

Have You Noticed?

Have you noticed things happening at Grace Celebration? For instance the build-out of our sound room into our worship space. Not only can our audio-visual volunteers now see and hear better, they can also now feel enjoined in our worship thanks to special monetary donations and a lot of volunteer time by Shawn Weiser, Steve Podawiltz, Milton Carroll and others.

On a recent Saturday, several volunteers came to prune, plant flowers, clean the playground area, fill some cracks in the driveway, etc. Numbers were small, but those who came worked diligently to improve the appearance and impression our grounds and facility make.

How about our cross out front – have you noticed it is now clean and white again? Thanks to Steve & Barb Podawiltz and Dave Borchardt, it got a good power washing to remove the accumulating moss / mildew. Ron Lynd power washed

the front sidewalks.

What about lighting in the sanctuary – have you noticed it is a bit brighter?

Thanks to Shawn Weiser, several burned-out lights are now replaced and burning brightly. While he was at it, Shawn also installed the 65-inch TV monitor on the back wall with help from Steve Podawiltz. It allows Pastor and our Praise Team to see what everyone else does on the screen behind the altar.

Many other things are happening or in the works at Grace. When we can afford it, the parking lot will be resealed and re-stripped. A new projector will soon be installed to replace our recently failed unit. Ministry teams are meeting, planning and putting various ministries into motion. Don't miss out – step up to volunteer or respond when asked to help. Be part of the wonderful things happening at Grace Celebration Lutheran Church.

SAVE THE DATE

May 25 - Grace on the Green Outreach Event - Red, White, Blue BBQ. Food, Games, Music for everyone. Starting at 5 - 8pm.

June 17-21 - Lutheran Youth Camp for 3-7th grades

June 29 - Grace on the Green Outreach Event - Beach Party. 7-9pm

July 10-16th - National Youth Gathering

July 22-26th - Vacation Bible School

August 17 - Grace on the Green Outreach Event - Elvis Celebration. 5-8pm

October 12 - Grace on the Green Outreach Event - Oktoberfest. 5-8pm

REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

LCMS YOUTH GATHERING | Minneapolis · July 11-15, 2019

The National Youth Gathering is rapidly approaching and the youth of Grace Celebration still need to raise more funds to attend this amazing event. We have two upcoming fundraisers and we could use your help!

First, we will begin selling church t-shirts next week through the end of May.

The shirts are Tagless Hanes t-shirts in 100% preshrunk cotton. They are available in Deep Royal or Deep Red in sizes from Youth XS to Adult 4XL. Cost is \$15 per shirt (\$17 for 2XL-4XL). Order today and wear your faith in style!

Second, are you cleaning out your attic or refreshing your guest room? Do you have items you're willing to donate for a virtual garage sale? The Grace Youth would gladly take your items for sale online! Contact Jean Belles for more info at jean@gracecelebration.org.



Summer Ladies Bible Study

We have some amazing women here at Grace Celebration, but because of our busy lives and being a church that is made up of people from all parts of Shelby and Fayette Counties, we don't often get the chance to gather outside of Sunday morning. Let's face it - 5 minutes on Sunday after church just isn't enough to really get to know someone! So this summer we are going to offer an evening, in-home Bible Study on friendship. We will be meeting in several different locations to make it easier for more

women to come. There will be homes in Bartlett, Cordova, and Germantown/ Collierville hosting each week. The first and last meetings will be as one big group and the 4 middle lessons will be as area groups. Please come even if you might miss a lesson or two and bring a friend! Interested? E-mail Barb Podawiltz at bpodawiltz@gmail.com. The study will begin the week of June 10th and conclude the week of July 15th.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Andy Belles's birthday 8:45am Sunday School 10am Contemporary Worship 12pm Lively Stone Worship	29	30 6pm Lively Stone Bible Study	1 Darin Drake's birthday 6pm Band Practice	2 Lori Bost's birthday 6pm Lively Stone	3 Lynda Schirmer's birthday	4 7:30am Men's Bible Study 2pm Lively Stone
5 8:45am Sunday School 10am Contemporary Worship 12pm Lively Stone Worship	6 Darren Nathan's birthday Steve Carney and Annie Carney's anniversary	7 6pm Lively Stone Bible Study	8 6pm Band Practice	9 Judith Sigler's birthday 6pm Lively Stone 7pm Bible Study	10	11 7:30am Men's Bible Study 2pm Lively Stone
12 Mother's Day 8:45am Sunday School 10am Contemporary Worship 12pm Lively Stone Worship	13	14 Ivan Bost's birthday 6pm Lively Stone Bible Study	15 6pm Band Practice	16 6pm Lively Stone 7pm Bible Study	17	18 7:30am Men's Bible Study 2pm Lively Stone
19 Confirmation Sunday 8:45am Sunday School 10am Contemporary Worship 12pm Lively Stone Worship	20 Zachery Miller's birthday	21 6pm Lively Stone Bible Study	22 6pm Band Practice	23 Jason Perkins's birthday Jennifer Perkins's birthday 6pm Lively Stone 7pm Bible Study	24	25 7:30am Men's Bible Study 2pm Lively Stone 5pm Grace On The Green - R, W & B BBQ
26 Graduation Sunday 8:45am Sunday School 10am Contemporary Worship 12pm Lively Stone Worship	27	28 6pm Lively Stone Bible Study	29 6pm Band Practice	30 6pm Lively Stone 7pm Bible Study	31	1 7:30am Men's Bible Study 2pm Lively Stone