

August/September 2022

HERALD OF GRACE



Rev. Wayne J. Miller, Pastor

Connie Rowe, Organist

Debbie Milling, Office Volunteer

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FROM YOUR PASTOR

Did you know that Lutherans originated as a result of the German Reformation? Did you know that Grace was first opened as the 'Free German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mobile' in 1867? Did you know that many of Grace Lutheran Ministries' early records were written in German? Did you know that the church continued with various services in German until the 1930s?

Over the years, there were less and less people who knew enough German to follow a service and World War II drastically changed the language of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Though mostly German and Scandinavian immigrants made up the Lutheran Churches in America back in the day, today it's Luther's theology, leadership and teaching that has attracted all people to know that we are saved by grace through faith alone and scripture alone and in Christ alone.

Autumn is often one of the busiest times of the year for Alabama with school and college football and having nice weather to do things outside (besides the occasional hurricane.) While Lutheran Churches in the area have held Oktoberfest themed gatherings before and St. Marks in Elberta (an old German settlement town) holds the Elberta German Sausage Festival twice a year, the tradition of holding an authentic *Oktoberfest* has not yet been established until this year! And it comes from us at Grace Lutheran Church, appropriately the oldest Lutheran Church in the state of Alabama grateful to celebrate our German heritage.

Having some German ancestry, myself, I have a fondness for German traditions - and one of my favorites is the fall celebration of Oktoberfest. Please mark your calendars for October 1, 2022.

The celebration that runs from 11:00-6:00 will feature traditional German food, such as bratwurst, sauerkraut, German potato salad, and a bake sale from our Lutheran women in mission. In addition to the delicious food, there will be beer of course, a raffle, and an accordionist who plays German songs. (Don't worry, a TV for college football is in the works.) Wear your lederhosen or your dirndl. There will be a photo booth with props where you can smile, laugh and have fun. *In Prov. 17:22, we read that "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."* Being with Christian friends and having a merry time is indeed wonderful therapy for each of us, and God encourages us to do just that.

The purpose of the Oktoberfest is where we praise and thank God for the founding and flourishing of Grace Lutheran through His mercy and grace as the first weekend of the festival is Grace's 155th anniversary. At the Oktoberfest, we rejoice in the love and good fellowship of our friends, who support Grace and work to help spread the word about the Christian love and care which prevail here among us. Our Oktoberfest is not a time to overindulge in food and drink, but a time to indulge in serving Grace and its folks by doing a work of love through donations and some solid sharing of life together and to show others of Christ's love. Sometimes a good case of indigestion goes along with the sauerkraut, but it's all part of the joy of the day.

Hopefully, while future Oktoberfest's will be built upon from our Inaugural, the purpose of Oktoberfest will be the same: celebrate Grace's German heritage, our faith and all that God has given with good friends, food and fellowship.

Have a joyful Oktoberfest with us - and praise the Lord with a merry heart!

Pastor Wayne D. Miller



From The President's Desk

School is back in session and if you are a teacher or have children you are probably adjusting to the new schedules and routines that go with this yearly event! And those of us without children needing to get to school, we still need to adjust to new traffic schedules!!

So, when creating your calendar schedules, don't forget to include all the happenings around Grace! Pastor's Tuesday morning Bible study continues, and he has added a Sunday morning study of the readings for that day. Choirs are getting ready to get singing/playing again. Oktoberfest is coming up soon – advance tickets are available! And don't forget to read the mission news from Lacey Sovik.....she always has a project going that you can get involved with in some way! On August 28th, she is planning a Paw-ty! How fun is that!! Read her report for more details.

A big thank you to all those that were able to stay for the Semi-Annual Congregational meeting on July 31st. We got a lot accomplished, and it is so nice to be able to talk to everyone at one time about what our wonderful Council has been working on and visions for the future of our church. Thank you to Sherea Weiss and gang for preparing a spaghetti lunch for everyone.

So, stay tuned and keep those planners out so you can schedule something here at Grace!! See you soon!

May God lift you up – saved by grace!

Debbie Milling
Debbie Milling

Grace Lutheran



Inaugural

Oktoberfest

Food · Drink · Music · Prizes

Oct 1, 2022

11am to 6pm

Rain or Shine

Free Admission

\$10 pre-sale platters
available Aug 7th - Sept 18th
see Debbie or Mike Milling

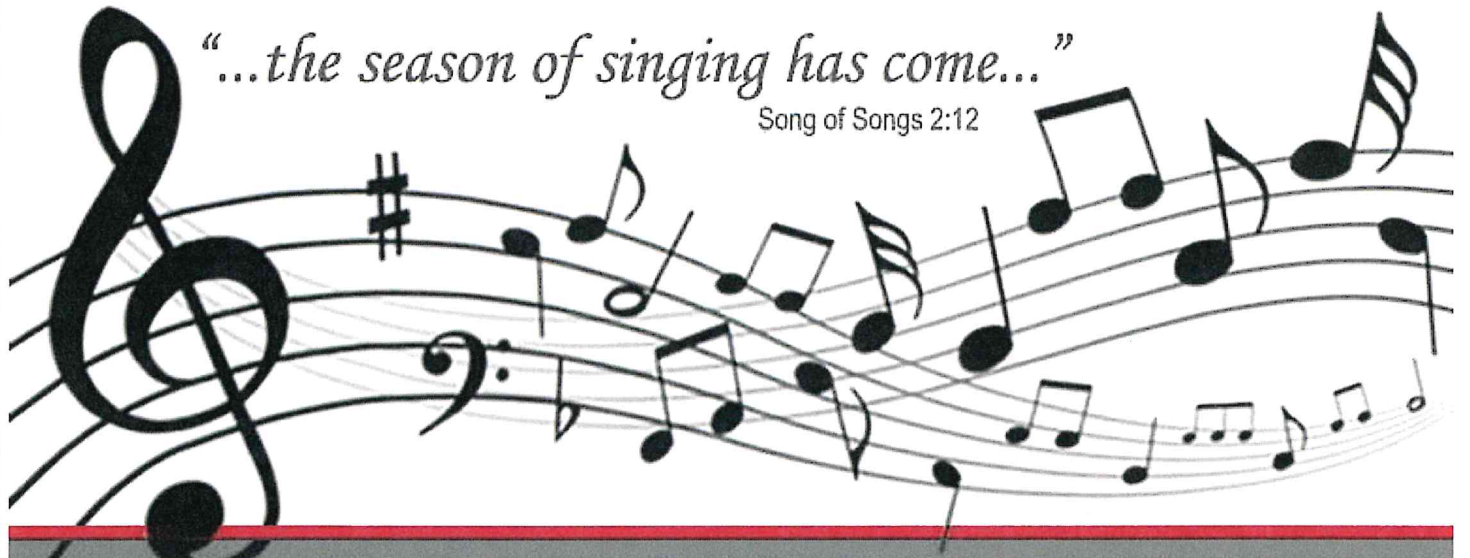
\$12 at the gate

**Bratwurst
sausage sandwich,
sauerkraut, and
German
potato salad***

***Drink tickets available at the gate**

"...the season of singing has come..."

Song of Songs 2:12



We are seeking new members for the choir so please come and join the chorus.
Help us make a joyful noise !

If you are interested in joining or returning to either the Handbell Choir or the Adult Choir, please contact Chris or Connie Rowe. New and returning members are welcome. There is a need for members in both the Handbells and the Adult choir. Now is a great time to give choir a try. Let the music sound in the House of the Lord!

Choir meets on Wednesdays – 5:45 pm

Handbells meet on Wednesdays – 6:45 pm

CHOIRS BEGIN ON AUGUST 24, 2022

Chris Rowe – Director of Choirs cmrbobcat@gmail.com

251 278-8596

Connie Rowe – organist Connierowe90@gmail.com

251 270-9000

MISSIONS

Christmas in July

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

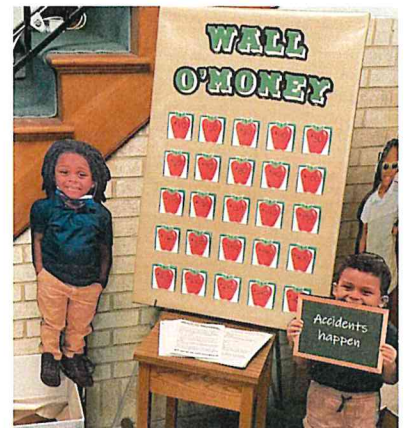
JUNE June's mission was another one for the record books. Each month, your growing generosity overwhelms me (and my dining room, but I'm not complaining)! As of this writing, we have collected over 380 pounds of goods to be sent to our troops overseas. Care packages have included a wide variety of snacks & quick-serve meals, toiletries, books, games, clothing, sporting goods and a wonderful stack of letters. These are fulfilling 15 different wish lists from seven different countries, three naval ships at sea, and one intelligence base at an undisclosed location. To-date, 34 packages have been shipped out. I have held back some boxes for addresses that had more than two care packages to be shipped so as not to overwhelm the military post. It looks as though some folks might be having Christmas in July, August and September!

As this project will continue for the next several weeks, we will still gladly accept monetary donations to be used towards the cost of shipping.

JULY Our July mission involved two parts: To restock the Leinkauf Elementary Supply Closet with



uniform items & misc toiletries for use throughout the year as well as to raise money for the purchase of gift cards to help teachers cover their out-of-pocket classroom expenses. Later this week we will be delivering all the donated supplies along with a \$50 gift card for each of the teachers. We do still have money left on a Thrivent Action Team card to purchase more uniform shirts once they are back in stock.



BONUS July included a "bonus mission" as donations made at the spaghetti dinner before our semi-annual congregational meeting on Sunday, July 31st went to support our very own Ms. Kimberly Kringel in her goal to raise \$4,000 for the American Heart Association (AHA). You can watch her progress by checking the goal tracker hanging in the stairwell between Foundation Hall and the Narthex, visit www.ahanycmarathon.org, click *All Individuals* & select *Kimberly Kringel*, or scan the QR code →



"I am running to support my dad, my mom, my aunt, my uncle, my late grandfather, and all those that have heart disease."

~Kimberly Kringel



Fundraiser ends November 6, 2022 when Kimberly runs the New York City Marathon.

MISSIONS

Doing What We Can

Once upon a time, far away and long ago, my mother-in-law and I adopted German Shepherd puppies from the same litter. As they grew, we decided to harness their super intellect for Search & Rescue training. There were classes for us and classes for the dogs and then classes for everyone as a team. We also practiced any time we visited somewhere with new smells and new terrain. Early on, my husband was the primary dog handler so when I went to the K9 sessions, it was usually my job to go out and hide. Colbey was a wonderful dog and excelled in all his training, but when it came to 'Mama', he did have a severe case of separation anxiety. We had to work very hard to get him hold 'stay' whenever I was no longer in

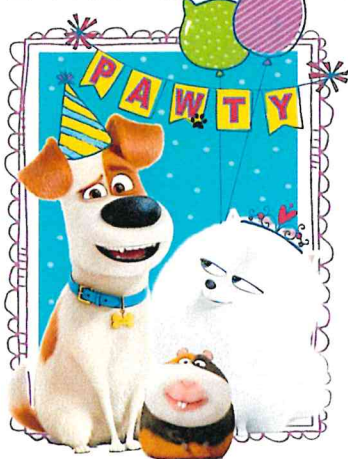


view. During one training class, I left his sight for more than just a few minutes and let's just say his brand new soft-sided kennel never stood a chance. Now, some of you may have already diagnosed the cause of his anxiety, but here's where I must admit to one of my more historic 'blonde moments.' It took me many years to realize my dog wasn't anxious because he loved me so much that he couldn't stand to be away from me. He was anxious because I had inadvertently trained him to think his

Mama was an imbecile who couldn't be left unsupervised. In his eyes, if I wandered off, I would inevitably get lost and it was his job to come and rescue me!

Despite Colbey's belief that I couldn't find my way home from my own driveway, I did learn quite a bit about orienteering, incident command, rope rescue, search strategies and more. Training was time-intensive, physically demanding, and could get quite expensive. But it sure was *fun*! That is why this month's mission is rather special to me. I'm hoping you will join us in support of Barnabas and Bam, Rex and Artemis and all their two- and four-legged friends on the Alabama Task Force 1 (AL-TF1), our local K9 Search & Rescue Team.

AUGUST



It's the **Dog Days of Summer** so we're having a *PAW-TY!*

The Missions Team will be hosting a puppy-theme party in Foundation Hall on Sunday, August 28th. Immediately after the worship service, parents will be able to bring their little ones down to "doggie daycare", leave to enjoy a few hours sans kids & return to the church for a 2 pm pick-up. Friends & family are welcome. We are requesting \$25 per child. Adults are invited to join us for \$10 per person. Lunch will be provided. RSVP by August 24th. Space is limited. For questions or to inquire about a multi-child discount, please see Jenn Mangino.

Proceeds will be donated to our local AL-TF1 K9 Team.



After taking a summer break, the LWML will **meet** again on **Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.** at the church.

CALLING



ALL BAKERS!

The ladies of LWML are reaching out to our congregation to contribute something sweet to our Bake Sale which will be held at the Oktoberfest on October 1st.

We are specifically looking for those special treats that are not just delicious, but also look irresistible, are easily packaged, and does not require refrigeration.

Bake goods that would be particularly well suited are:

- Cookies of all kinds (Large and Regular sizes)
- Brownies
- Chocolate, Caramel or Peanut Butter Fudge
- Regular Fudge
- Cupcakes
- Cake pops
- Banana Bread
- Pound Cakes
- Snickerdoodles
- Muffins
- S'mores Bars
- Vegan, Dairy free, and Gluten free options are also desirable.

These are just examples, the more variation of items we have the more successful our sale will be. If you would like to contribute a special sweet treat, we would LOVE to feature it at our Bake Sale table.

If you would like to help, please contact Sherea Weiss ronaldweiss@att.net or Marilyn Kearney marilynkearney@bellsouth.net

On behalf of all the ladies of Grace Lutheran LWML, thank you so much!

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is the official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We focus on affirming women's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active ministry here at home and to support global missions. The funds raised at our sale will do so much to continue our mission here at Grace Lutheran and elsewhere beyond our church doors.

Camp Dixie 2022

Chicken Dinner Schedule

All Camp Dixie Chicken Dinners are served from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm



Dates for 2022!

January 09, 2022
February 13, 2022
March 13, 2022
April 03, 2022
June 12, 2022
September 11, 2022
October 09, 2022
November 13, 2022

Bring Your Family And Friends And Enjoy Fellowship,
And Fun, While Having Some FANTASTIC Fried Chicken!

Dine-In & Take Out Orders
For More Information, Please
Call (251) 987-1201 Or Visit Our Website
www.campdixieministries.org
Located At: 29711 Josephine Dr. Elberta, AL 36530

All Proceeds Benefit Camp Dixie Lutheran Outdoor Ministry.

Camp Dixie is Supported By: Grace Lutheran, Mobile, AL
St. Mark's Lutheran, Elberta, AL St. Paul's Lutheran, Foley, AL
Immanuel Lutheran, and Redeemer Lutheran, Pensacola, FL



Can you “Spare” some time to “Strike” up support for Camp Dixie? Bowling Fund Raiser



- Who:** Congregational Youth, Adults, and Families
- When:** **Sunday September 18, 2022** RSVP by Sunday September 11.
- Where:** The Gulf Bowl Entertainment Center
2881 S. Juniper St. Foley AL
- Time:** 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. bowling, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. awards and arcade
- Activities:** 2 hours of bowling with shoes
1 Large Pizza and 1 Large pitcher of soda (per lane)
\$5 Bonus Arcade Card for each person
- Cost:** \$150 per team (\$30 per person x 5 person team)
- Sponsors:** Find sponsors for your team to raise more than the \$150 needed.
The team raising the most sponsorship donations wins a special prize.
- Prizes for:** Highest Team Score
Highest Individual Score
Most Strikes Team
Most Strikes Individual
Most total money raised by a Church

All donations will go toward Camper Scholarships and Summer Programming Cost.

For more information, to sign up or get Sponsor forms contact:

Director, Rick Frederick at 251-987-1201 or director@campdixieministries.org





Lutheran Bible
Translators

Formella 411

Sierra Leone West Africa
Mende & Themne

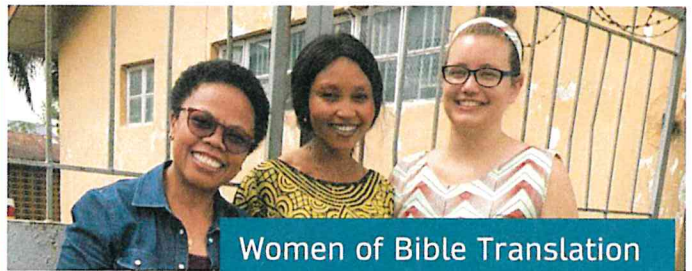
Volume 7 Issue 1

Quick Update

I must once again beg your forgiveness, as well as praise your understanding and patience, since it has been so long since my last newsletter. I am continuing to work on my balance between my different responsibilities as a student, translation advisor, and adult. I am so grateful for your prayers and encouragement as I continue to work in Sierra Leone with the Mende and Themne translation projects, continue my New Testament studies for my masters (lots of Greek homework!), and keep up with reports and correspondences with all of you (well try to at least). I always appreciate you and thank God for you, even if I am always delayed in writing to you. Since there is a lot to update you all on, the next few letters will have a focus on one particular part of my ministry and life, starting with the Mende project...



Consultant Checking Exodus



Women of Bible Translation



Mende Translators & Visiting Staff

Since I joined the translation project, while the translators still had some drafting to do, the main focus was on team checking, as well as reviewing and consultant checking a few times a year. This year we are heavily focused in all four stages of the translation work (drafting, team checking, reviewing, and consultant checking). Please pray for good health and safety for the team and their families.

Drafting: Since the Old Testament is in its final stages (still a couple years of work left), it was decided that it was time to begin drafting the New Testament. Some of you maybe remember that there is a 1959 edition of the Bible in Mende, as well as a 2002 New Testament. So why do we need another edition of the New Testament? One reason is consistency. Our current project uses the New Revised Standard Version (similar to the ESV) as our based text, and the 2002 New Testament used the Good News Translation as its base text. In order for the Old Testament and New Testament to have a similar style and translation choices, we need to continue on with the New Testament. Other reasons include adapting the text more fully to Mende orthography (using only letters found in the Mende alphabet) and vocabulary (using less borrowed words when possible) all in an effort to make the Mende Bible as

natural, accurate, and clear as possible for Mende speakers throughout Sierra Leone. Before any work was started, we had three days of training for understanding the New Testament historical and cultural context, for seeing how we got the New Testament we have today, and for translating Philemon together. The translators have all begun drafting their first New Testament books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and 1&2 Timothy). Please pray for them as they not only make every effort to find the right words, but also keep in mind all the various details (spelling, consistency, punctuation, capitalization, translating for the Mende context without abandoning the original context, etc.). Please pray for them in this work that they may be led by the Holy Spirit in wisdom and patience.

Team Checking: Since all of the Old Testament is team checked, this year we will be focusing on team checking the Deuterocanonical (DC) books for the Catholic edition of the Bible. There is a fairly large number of Roman Catholics in the Mende speaking Christian community, so we are including the apocryphal books that are a part of their canon. Making this edition available will allow the translation to be more acceptable and accessible to a wider community of Mende speakers. While not in the protestant canon, Martin Luther assures us that "These are books that, though not esteemed like the Holy Scriptures, are still both useful and good to read." They help us understand the culture and religious shift between the Old Testament and the New Testament, as well as record significant historical events, such as the events leading to the celebration of Hanukkah. Pray for us as we check these books together, for fruitful discussions leading to natural and clear translations.

Review: The reviewers will also be focusing on the Deuterocanonical books this year (in addition to a few remaining Old Testament books). To do this, we invite about ten to twelve Mende speakers and readers to go over portions of the book in small groups. They then come together to discuss the suggested changes. This process encourages reading the translations out loud (very important for not just well written translations, but ones that are 'sweet' to listen to), discussions for more natural translations, and active engagement from Mende speakers throughout the region. Last year I presented some of the important historical, cultural and other information about the DC books, so those who were not familiar with them would have the background to help them this year in their review. Pray for the reviewers, that they may read the books diligently and be encouragers of the work.

Consultant Checking: Does it sound like there is too much work to do already? Well, to add to the first three stages of work, we will also be reviewing Old Testament books with the translation consultant about one week a month. Usually, we only work with the consultant one or two weeks a year. This means that not only do we have twelve weeks out of the year set aside for the consultant, but we also need to check the books before we meet with her. Many of these books were team checked and reviewed years ago, so we need to update spellings and word choices. We have all learned a lot over the years, so we are more equipped for better translations, so we also spend time as a team focusing on greater accuracy and more natural sentence structure. For this stage, please pray for wisdom and perseverance!

Correspondence

Lutheran Bible Translators
PO Box 789 Concordia, MO 64020-0789
Phone: 660-225-0810

Contact

Amy.formella@lbt.org
Facebook: Formella 411
Phone: (920)288-2289 (texts only)



Happy Birthday

May God give you the strength and wisdom to smoothly surmount all the challenges life brings you. Stay blessed and enjoy your day to the fullest.

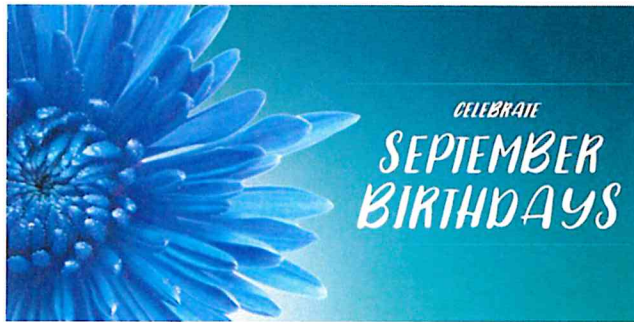
August Birthdays

1- Abigail Gehlken
2- John Lobsiger
3- Dennis Harris
3- Luke Kringel
5- Cliff Deakle
8- Ryan Armentrout
8- Cary T. March
12- Andrea Deakle
14- Barbara Merritt
15- Hannah Eiland
15- Hunter Hosey

15 - Belinda Tomas
17- Connie Rowe
19- Arlyn Sturtz
20- Ryan Beverly
21- Charles Hubbard
25- Annetta Seckel
26- Henry Tims
27- Joyce Lynd
29- William Kringel

August Wedding Anniversaries

8- Kevin and Kathy (Brokaw) Hanson
9- Jay and Carol Mitchell
11- Kenneth and Cathy Weiss
24- William and Bunny Kringel



September Birthdays

1- Oscar Addison
1- Jacob Hankins
3- Finn McKee
4- Joann Toren
5- Pat Cannon
7- Adair Baker
7- Jeffery Griffin
9- Joanna Arnett

12- James A. Andreasen
13- Judy Lauer
16- Mary Hubbard
18- Darrell Butler
21- Chris Griffin, Sr.
22- James Oswald
26- James E. Andreasen
28- Buklee Abbott

September Wedding Anniversaries

1- Nick and Ashley West
6- Charles and Mary Hubbard
8- Cliff and Andrea Deakle
12- Travis and Lexi Middleton