

Grace Family Weekly Message



WORSHIP AT GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
THIS SUNDAY, THE 24th OF JULY, IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

Sunday's Gospel reading is Luke 11:1-13. (See page 3 for more information)

21 July 2022

A BIBLE STUDY ON MOSES—DELIVERANCE AT THE HAND OF GOD

Two great acts of deliverance occurred during the exodus that became core memories of the Israelite people and a foundation for their faith in God.

Exodus 14:5-8 (NRSV)

⁵When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" ⁶So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. ⁷He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. ⁸The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly.

Exodus 14:21-25 (NRSV)

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²²and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

²³The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. ²⁴During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. ²⁵He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

When we left the Moses story last week, God's angel of death had just unleashed such terror on Egypt that Pharaoh and his officials finally agreed to let Moses and Aaron lead the Israelite slaves out of Egypt. The Biblical account says, "***There were about 600,000 men on foot, not counting women and children***" (Ex. 12:37). There is evidence that a Semitic people called 'Apiru' (probably Hebrews) were brought into Egypt as captives, but there are no extra-



An Egyptian military chariot from the time of Ramses II (13th century BCE). One can visualize how chariots like this could have become mired in a "Sea of Reeds" swamp so that the elite Egyptian warriors had to give up their chase of the Israelites.

biblical records of an Israelite exodus that huge actually taking place. The absence of such evidence outside of the Bible has led some to question whether the exodus really occurred.

The only record of this great 'exodus' is in the Bible. Renowned Old Testament scholar John Bright responded to these misgivings by concluding, "*the Bible's own witness is itself so impressive as to leave little doubt that some such remarkable deliverance took place.*"* The important take-away from this story is to not get caught up in debating whether it was possible for a couple million Israelites to depart from Egypt but simply to recognize that a large group of former Hebrew slaves really did escape from Egypt, most likely during the 13th century BCE. The point of the Biblical account is to remember that this event took place, and that God was involved in it. How the Bible writers remembered this event is the key: "***We were slaves in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand***" (Deut. 6:21).

The Exodus 14 texts (*above*) for this week's study tell us that the Israelites' troubles did not end with their escape from Egypt. We saw in last week's study that the Egyptian Pharaoh was a dishonorable tyrant who could not be trusted. He agreed that Moses could lead the Israelites out of Egypt, but true to form, "***Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds.***" He sent "***600 of the best chariots***" and other military assets to "***pursue the Israelites.***" The Israelites were terrified by the oncoming Egyptian army and attacked Moses for "***bringing us to the desert to die***" (Ex. 14:11).

It was at this point that the second great deliverance took place. There is a debate over whether it took place on the Red Sea, a large, deep body of water, or on the Sea of Reeds, a marsh area between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. The original Hebrew literally says, "***But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness at the Sea of Reeds***" (Ex. 13:18). The Hebrew word for "***reeds***," however, is often translated as "***red***" because that fits the account of Moses raising his staff to trigger the strong east wind that parted the sea for the Israelites to pass through and then allowed the waters to collapse over the pursuing Egyptian army.

Once again, we must not read this as a precise accounting of actual events. At least three centuries passed before this memory was first put into written form. When these memories were incorporated into the Exodus texts, they recounted a great national epic that celebrates the Israelites' faith in God and their memories of how a faithful God delivered them from slavery and actually fought for them (Ex. 14:25 "***The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.***").

The first words of the Song of Miriam in Exodus 15 vividly express this faith in a God who acts to save his people.

Exodus 15:1-2 (as translated from Hebrew)

"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously.

Both horse and rider he has hurled into the sea.

***"The LORD is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.***

***This is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.***

* Bright, John; *A History of Israel*; The Westminster Press, 1959; p111.

WEEKLY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

© **WORSHIP ON SUNDAY.** This coming Sunday, the 24th of July, is the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. The Gospel reading is Luke 11:1-13. The liturgical color is green. Worship starts at 10:30 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. SAM Clyde Bame and Church Musician Bobbie Bean will lead the worship service.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING ALL MEMBERS OF THE GRACE FAMILY AND VISITORS TO WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

© **PRAYER CONCERNS.** Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

Jody Angelone, Mandi Palmer, LaVerne Edwards, Bev Burroughs, Kathy Spangler, Ken Pettit, Pastor John Bock, Carol Jacob, Bethany Collier, Leslee Bundy, Tom Szor, Shelly Sherman, Barbara Harger, Patricia Morral, Karen Southwyck, Jay Southwyck, Jessica Southwyck, Carol Morgan, Dustin Schmidt, Chris Marquardt, Stephen Andrew, Dean Crandall, Kelly Troyer, Nadine Crisologos, Cheryl Hoot, Heather DeWitz, members of the Grace family who reside in nursing homes including Jim Flick (Commons of Providence, Sandusky), Donna Foss (Parkcliff), Sandy Cutchall (Genoa), Joan Dietrich (Genoa), and Bertha Marquardt (Orchard Villa), and members of the Grace family and their colleagues who serve in the Armed Forces. If you know of someone to add to the prayer list, please inform Pastor Jaci or the Church Office.

© **ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING LAST WEEK.** 48 persons attended worship last Sunday. Offerings last week were \$4,882. Offerings need to average \$2,789 per week to meet the 2022 Offering budget target. So far in 2022, offerings are ahead of that budget goal. **Thank you to all who attend worship and contribute regular offerings.**

UPCOMING ACTIVITES AND EVENTS			
Date	Event	Time	Location
26 July, Tuesday	School Book Bag Preparation	9:30 AM	Grace Sewing Room
31 July, Sunday	Book Bag Distribution	Before or After Worship	Grace
31 July, Sunday	New Members Class	After Worship	Grace
7 July, Sunday	New Member Recognition during worship	10:30	Fellowship Hall
9 August, Tuesday	Board of Worship	7:00 PM	Grace
11 August, Thursday	Council Meeting	7:00 PM	Grace
16 August, Tuesday	Board of Congregational Life	7:00 PM	Grace
11 September, Sunday	Rally Day (<i>Personal Care Kit Assembly with Ice Cream Social</i>)	11:30 AM	Fellowship Hall
25 September, Sunday	Chicken BBQ Fund Raiser	11:30 AM	Grace
Regular Weekly Events:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday mornings, at 10:30 AM, Worship, with communion (<i>in the Fellowship Hall</i>) 			

- © **SCHOOL BOOK BAG PROJECT.** One of Grace's annual benevolence projects is the preparation of school book bags that are filled with school supplies. The book bags will be delivered to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to students who need them in many parts of the world. The Board of Witness and Mission is organizing this project for 2022 and volunteers are needed to support this important benevolence program. Thrivent has provided a \$250 grant for the purchase of supplies for this program. Members of the Grace Family who would like to help with this project should note these dates:
- **Book Bag Rope Insertion, Tuesday, 26 July at 9:30 AM.** Volunteers are needed to assemble in the Church basement sewing room to insert ropes in this year's book bags at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, the 26th of July (That's this coming Tuesday!).
 - **Book Bag Distribution, 31 July.** The book bags will be available for distribution to volunteers who will take them and fill them with school supplies according to the list that will be provided with them. Book bags will be available for volunteers to pick up and fill on Sunday, 31 July.
- © **NEW MEMBERS CLASS AT GRACE.** Pastor Jaci will conduct a new members class after worship on Sunday the 31st of July. New members will be received and recognized during worship on Sunday, the 7th of August. Two new members are already slated to join. If anyone else is interested in membership at Grace at this time, please contact Pastor Jaci.
- © **GRACE COUNCIL MEETINGS.** The Council's most recent meeting was an in-person meeting at the Church on the 9th of June. Discussion and decision items were reported in the 16 and 23 June editions of the **Weekly Message**. The next Council Meeting will be on Thursday, 11 August, at the church.
- © **OPERATION OREO.** Please keep all military personnel in your prayers, but especially: SSG Stephen Simkus, Cadet Julian Sanchez, and CPL Theodore Ozanski.
- Anyone wishing to donate to Operation Oreo to help offset the cost of shipping and the contents of the Goody boxes -- Just mark "Op Oreo" on the memo line of your check.
 - If you have a name to add to our list or if you have any questions about Operation Oreo, please contact Jennifer Marquardt
- © **BLOOD DRIVE AT GRACE.** Another successful Red Cross Blood Drive was conducted at Grace this past Monday, the 18th of July. Sincere thanks go to Joan Eckermann for coordinating this ministry and to the volunteers who supported it. The next Blood Drive at Grace is expected to take place in December.

- © **DEACON AND LECTOR SCHEDULE.** Deacons and Lectors scheduled to serve in upcoming worship services are listed in the table.

DATE	DEACONS	LECTORS
24 July	Jean & Merlyn Weng	Ruth Anderson
31 July	Deb & Jeff Boos	Mary Lou Kohli
7 August	Mary & Mike Schlievert	Rachel Beeler
14 August	Randy Jacobs & Gary Anderson	Judy Zimmerman

- © **BETHLEHEM WOMEN'S RETREAT.** The 2022 Bethlehem Women's Retreat will take place at the Staybridge Suites in Rossford on 23-25 September. Women from Grace are invited to participate in this exciting opportunity for Christian growth. Anyone who is interested should contact Ruth Ann Anderson (419-607-3164 or ruthannand@gmail.com) for more information or to make a registration. The retreat theme this year is based on Psalm 100:5 "**For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.**" Discovery sessions during the Retreat will center on genealogy, both in the Old and New Testaments, and in participants' personal lives.

- © **GRACE CHICKEN BBQ FUND RAISER.** Grace will hold a chicken barbecue fund raising event on Sunday, the 25th of September, starting at 11:30 AM. Proceeds from this year's Chicken BBQ will go to the **Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center.** This organization needs financial contributions to provide financial assistance to grandparents raising grandchildren and to feed Ottawa County children during summer months, to name two of their many programs. There is a flyer on the Center on the Fellowship Hallway bulletin board. The Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization (<https://ocfamilyadvocacy.org/>).



- © **ELMORE FOOD PANTRY.** The Grace Food Pantry item for July is 10 oz. cans of soup. Grace hosts the Elmore Food Pantry. It is open on the second Friday of each month, from 9:00 AM until noon. Anyone who wishes to drop off food items at the church may bring them to the church on Sunday or leave them inside the north door during times when the church office door is open.
- © **GOD'S WORK PROJECTS.** 112 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief will be assembled at the church on Sept 11th, **God's Work Our Hands Sunday.** The appeal for donated items to place in these kits was successful—no more items are needed. **Thank you to everyone who responded to this appeal.**
- © **BACKPACKS FOR HUMANS** (<https://backpacknation.space/>). This 501(c) (3) organization serves people in crisis in the Toledo area. Now that it is summer, its current priority needs are for ball caps, sunscreen, and ChapStick. Anyone who has extras of these items is urged to bring them to the church and place them in the collection box in the Fellowship Hall.

© **MILLERS RECEIPTS.** Members of the Grace Family who shop at Millers New Market Grocery in Genoa should keep their receipts and give them to Marilyn Crandall who will redeem them for Grace (or send them to 9591 W Moonlight Bay Lane, Oak Harbor OH 43449).

Our Prayer: Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION		
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