

# Grace Family Weekly Message

19 May 2022



**WORSHIP AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY, THE  
22<sup>nd</sup> OF MAY.** Sunday's Gospel reading is John 14:23-29.

**Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> is the deadline for ordering Geraniums for Pentecost.** See page 4 for information and the order form on page 7.

## A BIBLE STUDY ON MAKING DISCIPLES IN ALL NATIONS

*During our recent travels in Southern France and our visits to ancient churches in that area, we were struck by how important legends about the miraculous arrival in that area of Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Mary Salome, Lazarus, and others were to the shared memories of churches that trace their histories to the first century AD. Christian missionary activity and the early growth of Christianity is the topic of this week's Bible Study. Gary Anderson*

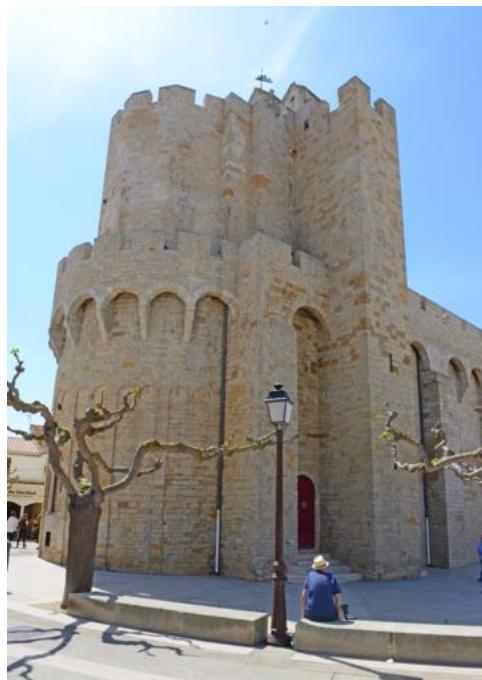
**Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSV)**

**16** Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20a** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

The founding of the Christian Church can literally be traced to this last instruction from the resurrected Jesus to his disciples that occurred just before his ascension into heaven. With these words, Jesus commanded his disciples to “**make disciples of all nations**” by baptizing them and teaching them his commandments. There is also a similar exhortation at the end of Mark in which Jesus says, “**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved**” (Mark 16:15a).

Jesus' last instructions encompassed these critically important conclusions:

1. “Disciples” was not a closed club restricted to the original eleven disciples. Jesus wanted



Local legends in Southern France connect Mary, the mother of James, and Mary Salome with the establishment of this church in Saint Maries by the Sea on France's Mediterranean coast.

those disciples to recruit more followers of Jesus who would become new disciples and expand the community of believers.

2. The new disciples must be distinguished by three attributes: a) they were to be baptized and b) they were to be instructed in and c) follow “Jesus’ commandments.”
3. The new disciples were to be an international group; they were to come from “**all nations**,” or “**all creation**.”
4. The new disciples who are revered in the legends of Southern France fulfill the intent of Jesus’ last earthly words in a remarkable and compelling way.

The Book of Acts, Paul’s Letters, and the Epistles document the activities of missionaries like Peter, Paul, James, Barnabas, Timothy, and others as they

transformed the church from a community of Christian Jews centered in Jerusalem to a church “**of all nations**” in the known world of the Roman Empire. The legends about a group of Christians from Jerusalem arriving in Southern France and subsequently being connected with the founding of several churches in that area suggests that there were other missionaries besides those named in the New Testament who were active in spreading the good news of the Gospel and setting up new churches.



*This shrine in the church at St. Maries by the Sea celebrates the legendary arrival by boat of Mary Salome and Mary Jacobi and their role in founding that church.*

Mediterranean Sea. In other versions, the trip was deliberately organized as a missionary journey. In most versions, there were four or five women, including the three Marys and Martha, plus Sarah, an Egyptian servant of one of the Marys. There were two or three men, who included Lazarus, the brother of Mary Magdalene, and Maximin, who later became Saint Maximin. Some versions also included Joseph of Arimathea.

According to the legends, these disciples landed either near Marseilles or Saint Maries by the Sea in Southern France. Mary the mother of James and Mary Salome are said to have remained at Saint Maries by the Sea where they are connected with the establishment of the ancient church there. Maximin was active in the Marseilles area where his work led to the founding of a great church there. Maximin eventually became the Bishop of Marseilles. Martha was connected with the founding of churches in Tarascon and Avignon. Mary Magdalene’s involvement in founding a church near Aix-en-Provence was described in the 5 May **Weekly Message** Bible Study.

Christian Churches in Southern France cherish these legends as a way to honor and revere disciples who first brought the Gospel to their communities nearly 2,000 years ago. Whether the legends are true or not, what is important is that in the 1<sup>st</sup>

century AD, Jesus' dedicated followers actively responded to his instructions "***to make disciples of all nations.***" Their courageous missionary activities led to the founding of several churches in Southern France that continue to venerate these disciples with their legends and shared memories.

Grace was founded in 1904. A Lutheran Community was established in Elmore before that. Who are the disciples whose courageous actions led to the founding of our Church? Do we even know who the disciples were who founded Grace? What can we do to make sure their activities are revered and remembered?

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## **WEEKLY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES AT GRACE**

**WORSHIP ON SUNDAY.** This coming Sunday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, is the Sixth Sunday of Easter. Worship starts at 10:30 AM. The Gospel reading is John 14:23-29. Pastor Jaci and substitute organist Audrey Milbrodt (*Bobbi will be on vacation*) will lead the worship service.

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

- © **WORSHIP SEATING AND COMMUNION AT GRACE.** Seating in the Grace Sanctuary is now open. Worshippers may take any open seat.
  - ***Other covid precautions continue,*** including optional mask wearing, stationary offering, stationary passing of the peace and the opportunity to worship in vehicles, with the services broadcast over FM 94.1.
  - ***Worshippers go forward for Communion.*** We now receive communion by going forward. We continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements or worshippers may bring their own elements. A Deacon will direct worshippers when to go forward. Take your communion elements with you when you go forward. Pastor will administer the body/bread. A second Deacon will administer the blood/wine. Pastor will go out to commune worshippers in their vehicles.
- © **UPCOMING WORSHIP PLANS.** The choir will sing during worship on 22 May and then break for the summer. Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of June. The Pentecost service will be in the Sanctuary—plan to wear red that day. Tentative plans are to start worshipping in the Fellowship Hall on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June. Rally Day (*God's Work—Our Hands Sunday*) and the assembly of personal care kits is 11 September. An ice cream social is planned for that event. Choir singing will begin again on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September.
- © **PRAYER CONCERNS.** Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

LaVerne Edwards, Bev Burroughs, Kathy Spangler, Ken Pettit, Pastor John Bock, Carol Jacob, Pastor Karl Kessler, Angela Scardina, Bethany Collier, Leslee Bundy, Tom Szor, Shelly Sherman, Barbara Harger, Patricia Morral, Karen Southwyck, Jay Southwyck, Jessica Southwyck, Carol Morgan, Dustin Schmidt, Chris Marquardt, Donald Bench, Sean, Jody Angelone, Ron Dangler, Jen and Steve, Marge Griffin, Jim Flick, Josh Hunker, Stephen Andrew, Dean Crandall, Kelly Troyer, Nadine

Crisologos, Cheryl Hoot, Reed Oestreich, Heather DeWitz, members of the Grace family who reside in nursing homes including 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.

- ⑥ **ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING LAST WEEK.** 41 persons attended worship last Sunday. Offering contributions on Sunday were \$4,994. 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 continue to contribute regular offerings.
- ⑥ **GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST.** Pentecost this year is on Sunday, the 5th of June. **Red Geraniums** will be available for PENTECOST, on that Sunday. The plants will be in a 6 1/2" pot and wrapped in red foil. The cost will be \$10.00 each. An order form for **Pentecost Geraniums** is on page 6. Please get your money and order form to the church office and indicate it is for a Geranium. The order deadline is May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- ⑥ **Grace Council Meetings.** The Council's most recent meeting was a Zoom™ meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. Discussion and decision items were 1) Good news, 2) Prayer Concerns, 3) Approval of the 21 April Council meeting minutes, 4) Approval of the April Financial Report (*the summary below shows that Grace's financial situation is good*), 5) Pastor's report, 6) Board of Ministry Reports and 7) Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer. The next Council Meeting will be on Thursday, 9 June, at the church.

APRIL 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT – A BRIEF SUMMARY			
CATEGORY	April: Actual Income & Expenses	Year to Date Actuals <sup>2</sup>	2022 Budget for four months <sup>3</sup>
Offerings <sup>1</sup>	\$13,587	\$51,327	\$48,333
Unrestricted Income <sup>4</sup>	\$12,738	\$60,372	\$46,467
Operational Expenses	\$8,705	\$38,255	\$41,853
<b>Net: Income vs Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,034</b>	<b>\$13,072</b>	<b>\$4,614</b>

*Notes:*

<sup>1</sup>10% of "Offerings" are allocated to Benevolences; 6% are allocated to the Maintenance Fund.

<sup>2</sup>To determine current budget status, compare "Year to Date Actuals" with the "2022 Budget."

<sup>3</sup>The 2022 Budget is calendarized to show the amount allocated through the current month.

<sup>4</sup>"Unrestricted Income" is 84% of offerings plus rental and miscellaneous income.

- ⑥ **CONGRATULATIONS!** Deb and Jeff Boos are grandparents again! June Wyatt Boos was born to Josh and Erica Boos in Georgia on great-grandfather Merlyn Weng's 80th birthday, May 10th.

- ④ **PHOTOS FOR CHURCH DIRECTORY.** Photos for an updated Church Directory are being taken. If you have not yet signed up for your family photograph, the sign-up sheet is in the Church Narthex.

UPCOMING ACTIVITES AND EVENTS			
Date	Event	Time	Location
5 June, Sunday	Pentecost Worship	10:30 AM	Sanctuary
18 July, Monday	Red Cross Blood Drive	12:00 – 5:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
9 August, Tuesday	Board of Worship	7:00 PM	Grace
16 August, Tuesday	Board of Congregational Life	7:00 PM	Grace
11 September, Sunday	Rally Day: Personal Care Kit Assembly with Ice Cream Social	11:30 AM	Fellowship Hall
25 September, Sunday	Chicken BBQ Fund Raiser	11:30 AM	

**Regular Weekly Events:**

- Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Elmore Senior Citizens (*meets in the Fellowship Hall*)
- Sunday mornings, at 10:30 AM, Worship, with communion (*in the Sanctuary*)

- ④ **OPERATION OREO.** A handwritten card was sent to each of the soldiers this week. This is just a little note from their friends at Grace to remind them they are thought of and prayed for daily.
- 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
- ④ **ELMORE FOOD PANTRY.** The Grace Food Pantry item for May is soap (bath-sized bars). The Elmore Food Pantry, which Grace hosts, 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.
- ④ **DEACON AND LECTOR SCHEDULE.** Deacons and Lectors scheduled to serve in upcoming worship services are listed in the table.

DATE	DEACONS	LECTORS
22 May	Jennifer & Mark Haar	Ruth Ann Anderson
29 May	Jean and Merlyn Weng	Rachel Beeler
5 June	Deb & Jeff Boos	Judy Zimmerman
12 June	Mary & Mike Schlievert	Joan Eckermann

④ **SYNOD YOUTH DAY.** NWOS is sponsoring the NWOS YOUTH DAY on June 12th, 2022, from 2:00-6:00 PM, at Maumee Rotary Pavilion at Side Cut Metropark in Maumee. This is a FREE event for all youth 7th grade and up. More information is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hallway.

④ **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**. Members of the Grace Family are asked to donate the following items needed for these kits. There is a collection box on the table in the narthex where you can place the items you donate.

The collection schedule and items required is:

- **May - bars of soap** - 37 needed
- **39 fingernail clippers are still needed**
- **The collection box is on the table in the Narthex**

④ **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:**

- **Habitat for Humanity House.** Habitat for Humanity is building a house at 562 Ames Street, with construction expected to take place in June. Groundbreaking has taken place and final details are being worked out for construction to start. Volunteers to work on the project will be needed. Habitat for Humanity will release information regarding the work schedule, persons to contact if interested in working on the project and support that will be provided for the workers in the way of lunches, drinks, snacks, etc. Workers must be a minimum age of 16 and all skill levels are accepted.
- **Looking for full or part-time work?** The Census Bureau is looking for Field Supervisors and Field Representatives for Northwest Ohio. A flyer is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hallway with more information.

④ **SPECIAL BENEVOLENCE ACTIVITIES:**

- **Backpacks for Humans (<https://backpacknation.space/>)**. This 501(c) (3) organization, which serves people in crisis in the Toledo area. Now that it is summer, its current 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 Narthex.
- **Amazon Smile Fundraiser.** Amazon purchases earn cash contributions for Grace Lutheran Church if you enroll in the Amazon Smile program and name Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Elmore OH, as your designated charity. Log in with this address: [smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1219970](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1219970). If you use the Amazon Smile program and designate Grace as your charity, 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to Grace. Donations received through this program are divided evenly between Operation Oreo and the Piecemakers.

**Our prayer: Gracious God, thank you for the disciples who have gone before us to build the churches where we are blessed to be able to worship you.**

GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION		
PASTOR	COUNCIL PRESIDENT	CHURCH OFFICE
Pastor Jaci Tiell <a href="mailto:pastorjaci@tiell@aol.com">pastorjaci@tiell@aol.com</a> 419-215-8370	Gary Anderson <a href="mailto:dcmgaryanderson@gmail.com">dcmgaryanderson@gmail.com</a> 419-607-3036	Joyce Bruntz <a href="mailto:graceelc@gmail.com">graceelc@gmail.com</a> 419-862-3630

**Grace ELC Weekly Message Distribution.** Grace Family Weekly Messages are distributed by email and regular mail to Grace's members and friends to inform them about Grace's worship services, church activities and benevolence programs. Anyone who wishes to submit an announcement for the Message should contact the Church Office (email to [graceelc@gmail.com](mailto:graceelc@gmail.com); mail to the Church at: 19225 W. Witty Road, Elmore OH 43416). To add someone to the distribution list, send their email or mailing address to the Church Office.

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### **ORDER FORM FOR PENTECOST RED GERANIUMS:**

Geraniums will be available for **PENTECOST**, Sunday, June 5, 2022. The plants will be in a 6 1/2" pot and wrapped in red foil. The cost is \$10.00 for each Geranium.

The order deadline is May 22nd. Please get your money and order form to the church office and indicate that it is for a Geranium.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ geraniums at \$10.00 each    Total: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of/in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_