

**GREATER GRACE CHURCH**  
PASTOR RODNEY C. GRIFFIN, JR.



**ISAIAH 40:28-31; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58**

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

# 2023 THEME: LEVEL UP

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God has blessed us with another opportunity and another year to share in the business of Kingdom building. Our theme for 2023 is “Level Up”. As I shared with you in 2023 inaugural sermon, Level Up means to improve or increase, or to make something improve or increase, so that it is as good as something else. Looking at where we are now as a church, I am excited about all of the accomplishments that we have made and all the goals that we have achieved but we must continue to strive to do more.

Coach Prime (Deion Sanders) said, “Don’t make monuments out of moments” and the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 3:13-14, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Both of these men were merely inferring that we must continue to strive for more so that we can achieve more.

The church is now situated in an ever-changing culture and we must do the hard yet rewarding work of Evangelism and Discipleship. The models that worked for yesteryear will not work in today’s time. Leveling Up requires that we move beyond the cozy comfort zones that we have created and push farther:

**In Our Worship** — *John 4:23-24*

**In The Word** — *Psalms 119:11*

**In Our Walk** — *Ephesians 4:1-3*

**In Our Witness** — *Mark 16:15-16*

**In Our Work** — *Colossians 3:23-24*

*Pastor G*

# WELCOME HOME

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We are pleased to have you worship with us today. We are a church of Prayer, Praise, and Proclamation. It is our prayer that something is said or done to enlighten, encourage, and enrich your life as well as your relationship with Jesus Christ. If you are without a church home, we invite you to consider joining our family of faith. We hope you enjoy *The Grace Encounter* and we look forward to seeing you again!

# MISSION STATEMENT

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The mission of Greater Grace Church is to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. It is our mission to Evangelize the Sinner, Educate and Edify the Saint, and Exalt the Savior.

# VISION STATEMENT

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Greater Grace Church is to be a Christ-centered and Bible believing congregation that is committed to advancing the kingdom through authentic worship, powerful prayer, and biblical preaching. Greater Grace shall be a multi-cultural, multi-generational and family-oriented congregation that offers a vibrant and life-changing worship experience, extensive community outreach, and excellence in management and operations.

# CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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Our Children's Church runs every second and fourth Sunday to give our children and youth an opportunity to experience a lesson and worship designed to minister to them on their level.



# STAY CONNECTED

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We love having you as part of our Flock. Keep in touch with us via email and text. Simply text **GreaterGrace** to the number **84576**. Or sign up online at [Flocknote.com/GreaterGrace](https://Flocknote.com/GreaterGrace).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER 2023

### Week of September 4-7

- Annual Session of the National Baptist Convention, USA Inc.  
Kansas City, MO

### Wednesday, September 6

- 5:00am PUSH (Pray Until Something Happens)  
425-535-9219

### Sunday, September 10

- 9:00am Grace Academy Challenge Kicks Off  
269 W 57th Ave | Merrillville, IN 46410

### Wednesday, September 13

- 6:30pm Midweek Fill-Up Returns (Continuing in the Book of Acts)  
269 W 57th Ave | Merrillville, IN 46410

### Saturday, September 16

- All Hands on Deck (For Greater Grace Members)  
269 W 57th Ave | Merrillville, IN 46410

### Sunday, September 17

- Back to Church Sunday  
269 W 57th Ave | Merrillville, IN 46410

## ELECTRONIC GIVING

Tithing is just a click away. To tithe online, visit [www.greatergracec.org](http://www.greatergracec.org) and click *Give Online* in the upper right-hand corner. To tithe via your mobile device, download the Givelify app from the Apple App Store or Google Play then search for Greater Grace Church. You can also use the Greater Grace Church app and click Givelify. You may give be Zelle using email, [finance@greatergracec.org](mailto:finance@greatergracec.org) or if you prefer, you can use CashApp, \$greatergracec.

## DEBT ELIMINATION

Interested in helping us with our efforts to pay off our mortgage? Join our Debt Elimination Campaign. From July 2023 to July 2024, we are pledging to give an additional \$100 each month over and beyond our tithes to get us closer to burning our mortgage.

How can you join the efforts? Simply grab a Debt Elimination Pledge Card and an envelope from the Hospitality Center in the vestibule or see one of our ushers. Together, we will burn our mortgage!

# CHURCH MINISTRIES

<i>Ministry</i>	<i>Ministry Contact Info</i>
Deacons	ministries@greatergracec.org
Deaconess	ministries@greatergracec.org
First Responders (Prayer Ministry)	prayer@greatergracec.org
<b>Music Ministry</b>	
Minister of Music	stephanie@greatergracec.org
Voices of Grace	music@greatergracec.org
Praise Team	praise@greatergracec.org
<b>Worship and Fine Arts</b>	
Liturgical Dancers	dance@greatergracec.org
Puppet Ministry	art@greatergracec.org
<b>Institute of Grace</b>	
Director of Christian Education	institute@greatergracec.org
Grace Academy	institute@greatergracec.org
Men of FAITH (Men's Ministry)	men@greatergracec.org
Mission & Seasoned Saints	ministries@greatergracec.org
SALT (Women's Ministry)	women@greatergracec.org
Shepherd's Care	shepherdscore@greatergracec.org
Scholarship	scholarship@greatergracec.org
Grace Creative	creative@greatergracec.org
CREW (Children's Ministry)	crew@greatergracec.org
Culinary Arts Ministry	ministries@greatergracec.org
Hospitality and Greeters	hospitality@greatergracec.org
Caring and Concerned Christians (C3)	c3@greatergracec.org
Media Ministry	media@greatergracec.org
Nurses	nurses@greatergracec.org
Ushers	ushers@greatergracec.org
Chosen Generation (Youth Ministry)	youth@greatergracec.org
Divine Health	health@greatergracec.org

## SERMON CDS

Each week, CDs of Pastor Griffin's sermons will be made available at the Grace Corner Store.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

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Grace Academy  
Corporate Prayer  
The Grace Encounter  
CREW (Children’s Church)

9:00am–9:30am  
9:45am–10:00am  
10:15am  
Lower Level\*\*

## WE REACH GOD THROUGH

Opening Selection.....Music Ministry  
Call to Worship & Opening Prayer.....Pulpit  
.....Congregational Reading\* .....  
Scripture.....Deacon Ministry  
.....Congregational Singing.....  
Official Greeting.....Hospitality Ministry  
.....Video Announcements.....  
Pastoral Observations.....Pastor Rodney C. Griffin, Jr.  
Tither’s Affirmation.....Congregation

## WORSHIP IN GIVING THROUGH TITHES & OFFERINGS

Worship in Song.....Music Ministry

## GOD REACHES US THROUGH

Period of Proclamation.....Pastor Rodney C. Griffin, Jr.

## WE REACH MAN THROUGH

Invitation to Discipleship  
Partaking of the Lord’s Supper\*  
Benediction

*\*Denotes First Sunday*

*\*\* Denotes Second and Fourth Sunday, Following Tithes & Offering*

# CONGREGATIONAL READING

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**Leader:** For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

**Congregation:** After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

**Leader:** For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

**Congregation:** Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

**Leader:** But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

**Congregation:** For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

**Leader:** For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

**Congregation:** For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

**Leader:** But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

**Congregation:** Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.

**Unison:** And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

# CONGREGATIONAL SONG

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Down at the cross where my Savior died,  
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried,  
There to my heart was the blood applied;  
Glory to His Name!

**Refrain:**

Glory to His Name,  
Glory to His Name:  
There to my heart was the blood applied;  
Glory to His Name!

I am so wondrously saved from sin,  
Jesus so sweetly abides within,  
There at the cross where He took me in;  
Glory to His Name!

*Refrain 2x*

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

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Greater Grace Church is a Bible preaching, teaching, believing church designed to evangelize to the lost and equip the saints of God for the perfecting of the ministry.

We believe that God is a Spirit and we must worship him in Spirit and in Truth.

Our foundation is the word of God and we believe it to be saved, read it to be wise, practice it to be holy, and memorize it to grow.

## TITHER'S AFFIRMATION

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*“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” — Malachi 3:10*

**Leader:** The Word of God tells us to worship the Lord through the giving of tithes and offerings.

**Congregation:** Tithing is an act of faith that shows that I am committed to God and to the work of the Kingdom. Tithing releases joy, prosperity, and favor in my life.

**Leader:** Tithing ensures that my finances are blessed, and that my harvest be exceptional and lasting.

**Congregation:** Because I am blessed and because I am grateful for the Lord's grace and mercy, I lovingly give at least ten percent of my increase back to the Lord.

**Leader:** The Lord loves a cheerful and obedient giver; therefore, I will give joyfully and without hesitation.

**Congregation:** So by faith, I declare that I am a lender and not a borrower; I am the head and not the tail; I am above and not beneath.

**Union:** This week, I have a new attitude and much more gratitude because scripture says, “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.”



# 10 Goals for 2023 to Accomplish as a Church

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1. To win **150 new members** into our church who become fully committed followers of Jesus Christ. *(47 added since Jan 2023)*
2. To expand our Institute of Grace to include diverse course offerings.
3. To revitalize/strengthen the following ministries:
  - ◆ Marriage Ministry
  - ◆ S.A.L.T. Women Ministry
  - ◆ Men of F.A.I.T.H.
  - ◆ Divine Health Ministry
4. To establish the following ministries:
  - ◆ Single's Ministry
  - ◆ Millennial Ministry
5. To increase the number of participants in Christian Education and on the Prayer Line.
6. To increase our online presence (Our e-Church viewership).
7. To become a 100% tithing church.
8. To eliminate our mortgage and launch a vision campaign.
9. To establish an annual scholarship to be awarded to those obtaining their undergraduate and graduate level degrees.
10. To expand the Grace For You Foundation through outreach efforts and grant acquisition.

# CHURCH ETIQUETTE

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*1 Corinthians 14:40, "Let all things be done decently and in order."*

**DO** turn off your cell phone or put it on vibrate prior to entering the sanctuary.

**DO** greet fellow worshippers in Christian Love.

**DO** refrain from excessive talking, distracting behavior, note passing.

**DO** bow your head during prayer.

**DO** stand in an attitude of reverence during scripture reading and assume a reverent posture during prayer.

**DO** raise your finger to eye-level to get the attention of an usher or officer on duty.

**DO** graciously follow the instructions of the church ushers.

**DO** refrain from leaving the worship service before the benediction has been pronounced.

**DO** leave church pews, choir stand, and entire edifice neat and orderly.

**DO** make every effort possible to allow others to sit on your pew.

**DON'T** allow children to stand on the pews.

**DON'T** chew gum or candy while on duty or while worshipping in the sanctuary.

**DON'T** distract others from the spirit of worshipping in the sanctuary.

**DON'T** distract others from the spirit of worship by unnecessary walking.

**DON'T** walk aimlessly or move about during prayer, communion, baptism, scripture reading, or baby dedication.

**DON'T** stare or interfere with someone who is outwardly moved by the Holy Spirit.

**DON'T** partake of the communion elements if you have not been baptized.

**DON'T** take photographs or videos during worship the worship service, rather support the media ministry.

**DON'T** use the sanctuary except for worship or preparation for worship.

**DON'T** disrespect the sanctuary or allow children to play or run in the church.

**DON'T** walk in the pulpit area or behind the pulpit unless you have been instructed to do so.

**DON'T** walk down the center aisle or across the front of the sanctuary once service has started.

**DON'T** eat or drink in the sanctuary.

# CHURCH COVENANT

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Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sell and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

# CHURCH PRINCIPLES

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- EVANGELIZE THE SINNER
- EQUIP THE SAINT
- EXALT THE SAVIOR
- EMPOWER THE SERVANT
- ELEVATE THE SOCIETY
- EXPAND THE SERVICE



**GREATERGRACECHURCH**

— The Place Where Life Is Better —

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