

Grace Bible Fellowship

AUGUST 2025

Finding Rest In God

“Great are you, O Lord, and highly to be praised.” Augustine, the great theologian and bishop of Hippo, opened his autobiography with these words. From the beginning, the reader understands that Augustine wants to frame his story within the praise due to God. Later on that same page comes what is perhaps his most famous line, “You rouse us to take delight in your praise, for you made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.” Augustine’s next several chapters describe how he attempted just the opposite. He tried to find ultimate delight in his childhood games, stealing pears, sexual immorality, empty philosophies, academic achievement, building wealth, and even close friendships. All of it failed. He ended up learning that “wherever man’s soul turns itself, if it does not turn toward you (God), it is riveted to sorrows, indeed even if it is fastened upon beautiful things.” And what was the reason he found for this? “For (the soul) longs to be and loves to take rest in what she loves. But no rest is to be found in such things, for they do not abide but, instead, are fleeting.”

Psalms 48 begins with words very similar to Augustine’s, “Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God!” I chose this Psalm for my first sermon at GBF in part because I wanted to answer a question concerning the purpose of our gathering, “Why do we come to church?” The answer from Psalm 48 is so that we may glorify God because he has revealed

Continued...

August @ Grace...

August 10

Prayer Service @ 5pm
Elder/Deacon Meeting @ 6pm

August 16

Women’s Brunch @ Lafferty
Farm @9-11am

August 23

Men’s Cookout @ Hays’ Home
@ 11:30AM

August 31

Mission’s Giving (Peterson)

September @ Grace...

September 1

Offices Closed

September 3

Bible Study Resumes @
6:30pm

September 14

Prayer @5pm
Elder/Deacon Meeting @ 6pm

September 28

Mission’s Giving (Campos)

himself to be a saving fortress. Through this metaphor, we understand that God has given us peace, security, and rest. Through the work of Christ, God established the Church to be forever secure in him. So, when we gather every Sunday, we respond with praise. The result is a beautiful back-and-forth dance of God-given rest inducing God-glorifying praise which settles our restless hearts all the more. It's why we were created. "You rouse us to take delight in your praise, for you made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you."

Eventually, Augustine found his rest in God. Much later in his book he described the final moments before his conversion. He found the Bible open to Romans 13:13-14, "Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." All doubt faded away for him. He no longer wondered where he might find rest. He found it in Christ alone. Even in the great sorrow of his mother's passing, which occurred after his conversion, Augustine found rest amidst his pain. Speaking to God, he wrote, "I let flow the tears that I had held back, allowing them to pour forth as much as they wished, resting my heart upon them and there finding rest, for they were let loose before your ears and not those of men."

Brothers and sisters, my hope for you is that any restlessness you feel in your hearts will cause you to turn to the Lord. See what he has done for you in Christ to make you secure, to bring you peace, and to put you at rest. May we respond with praise to his glorious grace! Let our prayer be that of Augustine's which he wrote near the end of his book:

"O Lord God, give us peace, for you have given us all things. Give us the peace of rest, the peace of the Sabbath, the peace that does not know the shadows of twilight."

In Christ,

Pastor Nathan

2025 Chicagoland Gospel Network Men's Retreat

Theme:

"We Believe: 1700 Years of Doctrine and Discipleship with the Nicene Creed"

When: October 3-4

Time: Leave approx. 2pm

Where: Lake Geneva, WI

Cost: Approx. \$119 - Includes Meals and Lodging

Sign up is required by August 31. We cannot add anyone after this date. Payment is not due yet as there will be online registration this year and those details will be out as soon as we have the information. Keep an eye on the bulletin.

Praying for Our Family...

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people."

1 Timothy 2:1

- Pray for Pastor Nathan, Eric Bjerkaas, Jeff Schenck, and Don Faux as they continue in faithful leadership of the church.
- Pray for Pastor Nathan as he weekly prepares for the Sunday School class, preaching the Word, and shepherding the flock.
- Pray for John Lindenmeyer as he begins PT. Pray the Lord would strengthen him and relieve some of his pain. Pray for Mary as she walks alongside him.
- Pray for Jason and Amanda. Pray the Lord would restore function and balance to Jason's digestive system. Pray that he and Amanda would be patient and long-suffering through this season. Pray Christ would remain their focus and strength.
- Pray for Don Faux as he continues to suffer from painful headaches and fatigue. Pray for his MRI on July 29 and wisdom for the doctors caring for him. Pray for Angie as she cares for and loves her husband.

Our Missionary Partners...

Sillas & Wanger Campos, Brazil

Karl & Glynn Peterson, South Africa, Mozambique

Destin & Jennifer Detwiler, To Every Tribe

**If you have a prayer request you would like added or one removed, please email the office or place your request in the prayer box at the Welcome Desk.*

Praying for those who serve...

Leadership

Pastor – Nathan Miller

Elder – Eric Bjerkaas

Deacon – Jeff Schenck

Deacon – Don Faux

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."

Hebrews 13:17

Ministry Volunteers

Eric & Andi, Paul & Renée, John & Mary, Dan & Christine, Matt & Rebekah, Jason & Amanda, Jeff & Jill, Adam & Jill, Don & Angie, Lori, Aaron, Graeham, Yessie, Valerie, Patty, Kris, Kailee, Robena, Jake & Christiane, Jeff W., Caleb, Lydia, Marcos

Sunday School Teachers

Pastor Nathan: Adult

Yessie Yanez: Pre-K – 3rd grade

"Blessed are those servants whom the Master finds awake when He comes."

Luke 12:37a

Women's Brunch

When: Saturday, August 16th

Time: 9-11AM

Where: Lafferty Farm

32607 2400 North Ave

La Moille, IL

What to Bring: Brunch Dish

Sign up in the narthex and come and enjoy a time of food, fellowship, fun, and devotion.

Men's Cookout

When: Saturday, August 23rd

Time: 11:30AM

Where: Hays' Home

26061 1245 North Ave

Princeton, IL

What to Bring: Bring your own meat to throw on the grill and a side to share!

Sign up in the narthex for a time of food, fellowship, and the Word.

August



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9 WORSHIP @ 10	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9 WORSHIP @ 10 PRAYER @ 5PM BOARD MTG. @ 6	11	12	13	14	15	16 WOMEN'S BRUNCH 9-11AM @ LAFFERTY FARM
17 SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9 WORSHIP @ 10	18	19	20	21	22	23 MEN'S COOKOUT 11:30AM @ HAYS' HOME
24 SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9 WORSHIP @ 10	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9 WORSHIP @ 10 MISSION'S GIVING						

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

13TH - DENNIS & LORI BROWN

16TH - JEFF & JILL SCHENCK

20TH - ADAM & JILL SPARKS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10TH - JAKE CHERNY

19TH - BENNETT HAYS

21ST - MARY LINDENMEYER

24TH - PATTY EICHELKRAUT

31ST - PASTOR NATHAN