

May  
2018  
Edition

# The Lamp

Grace Lutheran Church

Growing in Grace—Making Christ Known



## "SEND"

I am thinking that prayer is a form of "texting" or "e-mailing". Like all computer or smart phone communication, once you hit "send" you can't take it back. Imagine that all the "G.D.I."s (God d\*@( It) or "F.C.S." (For Christ's sake) are out there once they're thought or spoken. They're out there in "the cloud".

Luke tells us in his Book of Acts (1:9) that "Jesus was taken up and disappeared into a cloud." Yes, I know it's not the same "cloud". But suppose that once you say it or think it, it's like hitting "send" and now it's all out there. What would happen if God and/or Jesus took it all seriously and acted on your request? What would our lives, our families, our world look like if God responded to all our "G.D.I."s? Then too, how many of our "F.C.S."s are really for the mission of Jesus?

Folk singer Carrie Newcomer has a song titled "Don't Push Send". In the song she sings:

"Carol wrote about the job frustrations  
What drove her crazy with aggravation  
A list of every person's faults  
With precise and pithy, wry insults  
She sent them off to her best friend  
But saw with horror as she pushed "send"  
She hit the keys and began to roar  
She's copied the entire office floor  
So don't push send  
Don't push send  
There are things you can never quite amend  
I tell myself again and again  
Don't push send"

However, in spite of all the stuff we send up to the heavens the one who rules over it and us is not a tyrannical, vengeful god or a goddess with a "bad-hair day". We don't live under angry demonic powers or dead, lifeless, unfeeling stars who control our lives. (Horoscopes are really "horror-scopes".) In reality, we live under the love of one who stretched out his arms on a cross and now seeks to embrace us as his children. We live under the "friendly skies" of one who first came to the world, not with condemnation, but with forgiveness and healing. We live with one who gives himself to us in the ordinary of bread and wine.

We know that when we push "send" to our prayers and the silent longing of our hearts, even our words of hurt and anger, they are received with compassion. We know that we don't live by chance or fate, or the whims of an indifferent power. We know that at our last breath Jesus will hit the "send" for our lives and we will be in his "cloud" of love and joy forever.

God Bless You,

Pastor Vidler

**Congregation Meeting set for May 6, 2018 after worship**

This meeting is being called because on Sunday, April 15th the Church Council approved unanimously to extend a call to the Call Committee's selection of Seth Hecox to be our full time pastor. The Congregation will be voting on this call. Seth Hecox is hoping to be ordained in the Lutheran Church (ELCA) and hopes to receive his first call as Pastor this spring. Seth is married to Chelsea, with whom he has two boys: Elijah, age 6 and Adlai, age 2. Seth has been Music Director and Youth Director at various churches in various Christian denominations in various states.

**Congregation Meeting #2 is set for May 6, 2018 following the 1st meeting**

This meeting will be in regards to our old boiler that has broken down many times this past winter. It is time to get it replaced before it completely breaks down and we have no heat at all for next winter. We will present facts and figures to the Congregation at that time.

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★ **Annual Synod Assembly** ~ June 15 and 16, Friday and Saturday, is the annual Synod Assembly in Rock Island at Augustana College. Each congregation is asked to send a male and a female representative. The church picks up the expense for this assembly and the cost is built into our annual budget. Though there will always be room at the assembly itself, it is preferable to get your registration in soon. The harder part with waiting, will be finding lodging close to the event. See Jackie D if you are interested in attending. She is not attending this year, but will help walk you through what you need to do. Please let Barb or Jackie know if you are interested in representing Grace at this Assembly.  
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**BUNCO PARTY**

The WELCA meeting for May 16th is now the night of the Bunco party. WELCA will be hosting a Bunco party on Thursday, May 24 at 7:00 P.M. in the fellowship hall of Grace. Join in the fun of rolling the dice, snacking, and conversing with other ladies. Don't know the rules or how to play Bunco? No worries! It's a simple game that requires no strategy but is fast-paced and fun. Bring a \$10 gift so that all participants can receive a prize. Guests are welcome, too. Snacks will be served.

*Anniversaries ~ May 2018*

*05/02 Joyce & Dan Stranich    05/03 Nancy & John O'Brien*

*05/30 Paula & Kevin Webb*



## In Our Prayers

Members: Roy Hill, Jim Hankins, Larry Welegala, Lori Domzalski, Marie Christian, Bonnie Hill, Jean Goodwin, Ruth Chew, Rev. Guy Warke, Norma Siebring & Theresa Klager

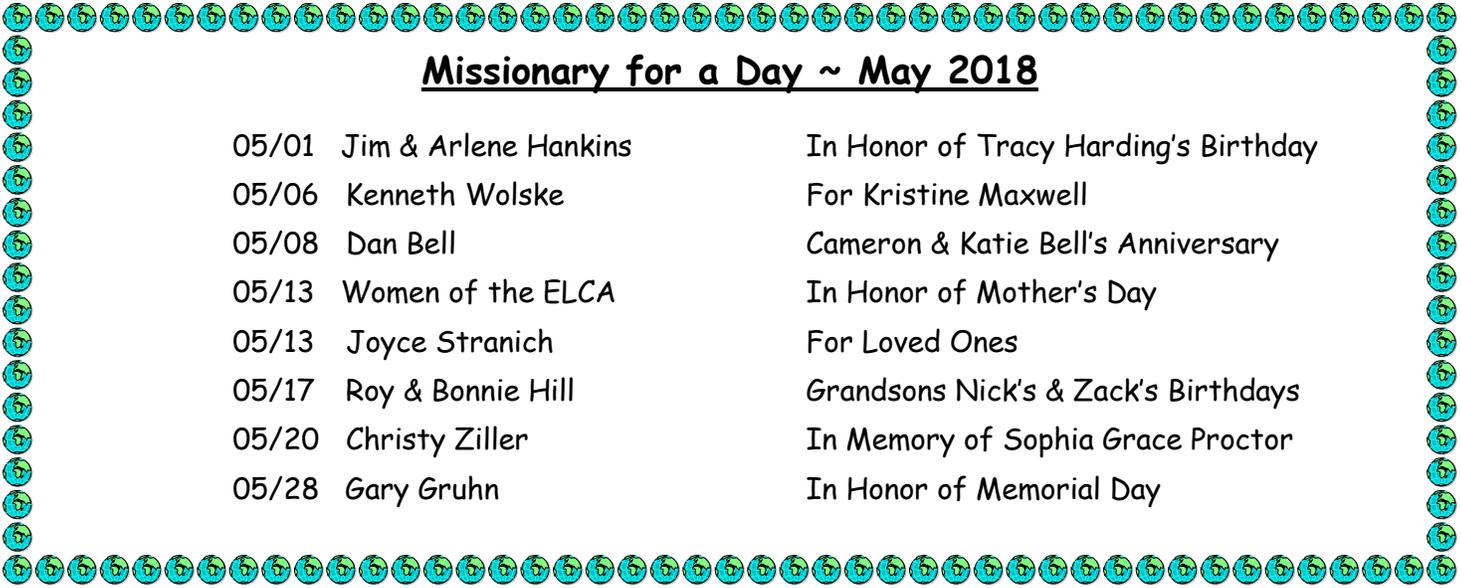
Friends and Family of Grace: Juanita (Jodi Dzak's mother),

Jack Zdanowski (Warkes' nephew), Lynn Drozd (niece of Jackie Danalewich), Toni LaPointe (friend of Members), Adrienne Vidler (Pr. David's wife), Bishop Jeff Clements, Anna Simms (uncle of Lalar Melvin), Sharon Cottingham (sister of Jean Peterson), Linda Wilder (granddaughter of Marie Christian), Jeanne Kieffer (friend of the Warkes), Marilyn Butzow (friend of the Warkes), Sarah Hazelrigg (granddaughter of Jean Peterson), Terry Wilder (Marie Christian's son-in-law), Matt Prodehl (son-in-law of Dan Bell)

Home-bound: Andrew Nielsen (*home*) (Karen Nielsen's husband), Belle Muday (*Aperion Care*) (wife of John Muday), Dolly Hoover (*Sunny Hill, Joliet*) (mother of Karen Nielsen), Edie Hess (*Heritage Woods, Manteno*)

## **Recycling Sunday—May 15<sup>th</sup>**

The weather has finally started turning warmer and we will be ready to take your scrap—cans, aluminum, metal—just pull up by the garage. All the monies collected are spent on projects in the church.



## Missionary for a Day ~ May 2018

05/01	Jim & Arlene Hankins	In Honor of Tracy Harding's Birthday
05/06	Kenneth Wolske	For Kristine Maxwell
05/08	Dan Bell	Cameron & Katie Bell's Anniversary
05/13	Women of the ELCA	In Honor of Mother's Day
05/13	Joyce Stranich	For Loved Ones
05/17	Roy & Bonnie Hill	Grandsons Nick's & Zack's Birthdays
05/20	Christy Ziller	In Memory of Sophia Grace Proctor
05/28	Gary Gruhn	In Honor of Memorial Day



## Birthdays—May 2018

05/02	Doris Dickey Jr.	05/03	Maryann Ricken	05/08	Joyce Stranich
05/16	Leaha Salazar	05/18	Tommy Oaks	05/19	Scott Christian
05/19	Marcia Mandac	05/21	Jackie Danalewich	05/24	Marsha Keller
05/27	Ken Winebaugh				

**Ascension Eve**  
**Worship**

The Ascension of Jesus into heaven 40 days after Easter has been one of the great festivals of the church. It is a reminder that the powers of the heavens and the unknowns of the universe are held by hands once nailed to a cross.

We celebrate this ancient festival of the church with a special worship service on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. Our confirmation class will assist as lectors, ushers, greeters, and as acolyte.

Come, all are welcome to share in this hope and faith filled worship. See you on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:-00 p.m.

**Pastor's Report  
to  
Grace Lutheran, Wilmington**

Date: March 26 - April 26 / 18

Hospital Calls: 1

Pastoral Calls: 16

Evangelism Calls: 5

Meetings: 9

Worship Services: 4

Bible Studies: 0

Confirmation Classes: 4

Private Communion: 14

Synod Meetings: 1

Mileage: 488

Miscellaneous: Attended Interim Pastor Mtg - Rockford - 4/15/18

Attended South Conference Mtg, 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran - Joliet - 4/26/18

**FUNDRAISER**

The Property Team is planning on participating in this year's all town garage sale. All proceeds will be used for projects at Grace Lutheran Church. We are looking for helping hands and new or gently used items for the sale. We will have a scheduled pick-up of left over items on the following Monday; either AmVets or Our Caring Closet.



**Would you like to volunteer?**

The church needs to have its gutters cleaned out. If you would like to volunteer for this task, please see Cindy Filas.

## Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting

March 11, 2018

**Present Council Members:** Dianne Carr, Lynn Christian, Christy Ziller, Dave Phillips, Pr. David Vidler, Joshua Wilkes, Jessica Elsner

**Opening Devotions:** Dave P opened with prayer & Lynn opened with devotions.

### **Minutes of December Council Meeting**

Minutes reviewed, Jessica motioned to accept, Diane second. All in favor.

### **Treasurer's report**

Treasures report reviewed, Lynn motioned to accept, Josh second. All in favor.

### **Pastors Report**

Pastors report reviewed as submitted. Lynn motioned to accept, Christy second. Consideration will be made to having a sunrise Easter Service. All in favor.

### **Old Business**

Grace will sponsor a Pinto Youth Softball Team this year. The team will be called "Amazing Grace".

### **Committee Report**

Properties- Painting is about finished and discussion with Nicor continue.

Call Committee- No new names for interviewing have been presented to Call Committee.

Education/Youth- Discussed youth trip. Soup suppers have been helpful in raising money for the trip. Josh and Jessica feel that the group is sufficiently funded. Will be ordering vacation bible school materials. Methodist church is hosting the first week of June. March 18<sup>th</sup>. Youth/Confirmation groups will be doing community service including helping yard clean up for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Mission/Outreach- Grace will sponsor a Pinto Youth Softball Team this year.

### **New Business**

Building use form to be reviewed and updated with Rainbow Council. Dave will review with Rainbow Leaders.

Next Council Meeting- April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Closing Prayers by David P. Diane will provide the devotion at the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Christian

## WILL IT BE HEAVEN OR HELL?

While walking down the street one day a US senator is tragically hit by a truck and dies.

His soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance.

"Welcome to heaven," says St. Peter. "Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a high official around these parts, you see, so we're not sure what to do with you."

"No problem, just let me in," says the man.

"Well, I'd like to, but I have orders from higher up. What we'll do is have you spend one day in hell and one in heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity."

"Really, I've made up my mind. I want to be in heaven," says the senator.

"I'm sorry, but we have our rules."

And with that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell. The doors open and he finds himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a clubhouse and standing in front of it are all his friends and other politicians who had worked with him.

Everyone is very happy and in evening dress. They run to greet him, shake his hand, and reminisce about the good times they had while getting Rich at the expense of the people.

They play a friendly game of golf and then dine on lobster, caviar and champagne.

Also present is the devil, who really is a very friendly guy who has a good time dancing and telling jokes. They are having such a good time that before he realizes it, it is time to go.

Everyone gives him a hearty farewell and waves while the elevator rises...

The elevator goes up, up, up and the door reopens on heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him.

"Now it's time to visit heaven."

So, 24 hours pass with the senator joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and, before he realizes it, the 24 hours have gone by and St. Peter returns.

"Well, then, you've spent a day in hell and another in heaven. Now choose your eternity."

The senator reflects for a minute, then he answers: "Well, I would never have said it before, I mean heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in hell."

So St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell.

Now the doors of the elevator open and he's in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage.

He sees all his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags as more trash falls from above.

The devil comes over to him and puts his arm around his shoulder. "I don't understand," stammers the senator. "Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and clubhouse, and we ate lobster and caviar, drank champagne, and danced and had a great time. Now there's just a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable. What happened?"

The devil looks at him, smiles and says, "Yesterday we were campaigning. Today you voted."