

June
2018
Edition

The Lamp

Grace Lutheran Church

Growing in Grace—Making Christ Known



To the people of God at Grace Lutheran Church:
Greetings!

As we prepare for our move to Illinois and our new vocation together at Grace Lutheran, my family is excited. We look forward to diving in and being a part of your congregation and community. But I realize I haven't gotten to meet most of you yet, and no one at Grace has been able to meet the rest of my family, so I wanted to introduce us a little bit.

I was born in Hope, AR way back in the dark ages of the 1980's, but I grew up in Georgia, about an hour north of Atlanta. Chelsea, my wife, had similar beginnings: she was born in central Illinois, then grew up in Georgia (both our parents moved to northern Georgia when we were 3 years old). I grew up in a small independent Baptist church, learning all about the bible. Chelsea grew up in a different small Baptist church, which is by far the prevailing denomination in the American south. I was baptized in that independent Baptist church at the age of 6, and I was home-schooled up through 8th grade.

While I was in middle school and high school, my family was part of a Southern Baptist mega-church. I interned there with the youth group of what working in the church might look like. I originally wanted to attend Moody Bible Institute in Chicago after graduation in order to pursue a life in urban ministry, but ended up instead majoring in and getting my Associates Degree in music at a small Baptist college in Georgia. About that time, I began attending a Presbyterian church (PCA), which introduced me to Reformed theology and, tangentially, much of Martin Luther's writings. Later, when we were married, Chelsea and I both attend that Presbyterian church together, and that was where Elijah, our oldest son was baptized.

But I'm getting a little ahead of myself. When I was 19, I signed a record contract with Tooth and Nail Records in Seattle and throughout my 20s, I was the primary member of a heavy metal band called Becoming The Archetype. With BTA, I wrote and recorded 5 full-length albums for worldwide release, and we toured all over America and Europe three times, Canada, Mexico, and South Africa. If you google my name or Becoming The Archetype, you can see some of our music videos, interviews, and other bits of my wild past. I also wrote and recorded for the rock band Anchors and for a folk album with my friend, Brandon Michael Williams. I spent 10 years doing the music life, and I enjoyed it immensely, but by 2013, the music industry had tanked, and there just wasn't enough of a market for us to make it worthwhile anymore.

Two things happened during these band years. First, I began dating Chelsea, who was living in central Illinois at the time and going to Rend Lake College. We dated long-distance for awhile and finally got married at Primitive Baptist Church in Cades Cove, TN (officiated by Alan Foster, my Presbyterian pastor from Georgia). The wedding was a great gathering with family and friends, but in the middle of summer in Tennessee, it was about 95 degrees and the church had no air conditioning! Luckily, everyone was kind enough to sweat through the service and then join us for some dancing to a traditional Irish bank down the road.

The other thing that happened during these band years was that I kept going to college to finish my Bachelors Degree. Sometimes I took classes online, and sometimes I physically attended classes during breaks in our touring schedule, I finally finished by Bachelors in Non-Profit Business in 2013. During those years, one of the colleges I went to was Greenville College in Greenville, IL for one semester as part of their Music Business program. I really enjoyed my time there in central Illinois.

Anyway, in 2013, we moved from Georgia to Washington state and I enrolled at George Fox Theological Seminary in Portland, OR to pursue my Master of Divinity. I got hired at Mt. Cross Lutheran Church as a Youth, Family, and Discipleship Coordinator and found a home in Lutheran theology and culture. After years of study, I completed my Master of Divinity at George Fox in 2017. 2017 also saw the completion of all sorts of other ordination requirements: my "Luther year" at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN (to make sure I was properly "Lutheranized"), as well as my unit of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education, which was a bit like chaplaincy), my year of pastoral internship at Mountain View Lutheran Church in Edgewood, WA and all sorts of paperwork and approval meetings with my Synod and seminary.

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Which brings us to this point!

Chelsea will be taking classes at the University of Chicago starting in the fall. She's pursuing her Masters of International Social Work. Chelsea enjoys bluegrass music and traditional Irish and Scottish music. She loves reading and she enjoys historical drams (often on BBC, which has shows such as Poldark, Downton Abbey, Father Brown and other such shows).

Elijah Wolf (sometimes known as "the prophet") and Adlai Bear (sometimes known as "the senator") are both high energy boys who bring us unending joy and exhaustion. Elijah loves soccer and drawing. He's been reading a lot of Dav Pilkey books recently, such as Captain Underpants, Dogman, and Super Diaper Baby. Adlai loves dinosaurs and anything related to them. While Elijah made the move to Washing with us, this will be Adlai's first move, so keep us in your prayers as we try to drive for several hours a day while Adlai is constrained in a car seat, entirely against his will (haha).

I enjoy exploring the ways in which my various interests intersect with each other. This includes theology, baseball, civics, philosophy, Stephen King novels, and community-building. On a personal note, I recently (proudly) lost 25 pounds through a dreadful regimen of exercise and dieting. I hope I never have to do that again! I enjoy conversations, so if you want to chat, feel free to ask. Relationships are what community life is built on, and relationships are built through conversation and walking together through life. So come talk to me! Whether one-on-one or in a group, I want to hear your story and journey alongside you as we all move together toward Jesus!

Peace,

Pr. Seth Hecox

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

On Sunday, May 20th, our Youth took time to say thank you to all our Volunteers. This included all members who dedicated countless hours or maybe just a few. There is a very long list of items that have been accomplished this past year, some by just one or two people and some by 8-10 people. The following have been accomplished this past year:

drainage installed along the walkways; closet built for pre-school storage; new roof, parking lot repaired, sealed, striped & handicap signs put in; brass door plates cleaned and polished; sensor lights placed in the narthex, front door, boiler room; pews washed down, altar & balcony cleaned; frozen pipes repaired; boiler repaired; plumbing repairs in bathrooms; closets moved around; monthly coffee hour; cleaned gutters; entered into the Christmas parade; church Christmas tree & outside decorations; Christmas tree decorated at the North Island for the Christmas walk; egg hunt setup and cleanup; refrigerator cleaned out; painting walls and ceiling in the chapel, foyer, & fellowship hall; vanity installed in women's bathroom; carpets cleaned; grass/lawn weekly maintenance; maintain landscaping in front and courtyard; leveled ground with dirt; repair exhaust fan in back hallway; garage sale (to be done next week).

If you notice something that has been done to help improve our church, please say thank you to our properties people. It's nice to hear that people have noticed something someone else has worked hard on. If you'd like to help out, please let Jim Hankins or Cindy Filas know. The Property Team is always look for volunteers!



Sign up today for a fun-filled week at Vacation Bible School!

June 11- 15th

Ahoy, mates! Hold on to your hats, because it's going to be a wavy ride as we rock the boat with **Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus**. We will have a great time with lively songs, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories, and tasty snacks—all of the things that make Vacation Bible School so much fun for the children. On top of that, we will be helping children learn about God's amazing love. Registration forms are available at church.

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting

April 8, 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 & Diane provided devotions.

Minutes of December Council Meeting

Minutes reviewed, Christy motioned to accept, Josh second. All in favor.

Treasurer's report

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

Pastors Report

Pastors report reviewed as submitted. Jessica motioned to accept, Lynn second. All in favor.

Old Business

No old business.

Committee Report

Properties- The Council acknowledged all the projects that have been completed by the Properties Committee. Their work is noticed and appreciated.

Grace will be purchasing a new security doorbell/camera for the back-preschool entrance as the old one is missing. Efforts to find the equipment have been unsuccessful.

Call Committee- The call committee presented a candidate for the role of Pastor at Grace. The Committee will meet with the candidate on Tuesday, April 10 via Skype to continue with the interviewing process.

Education/Youth- Youth trip was discussed, fundraising by the youth have been successful and the group is thankful to the generosity of the congregation. The youth group will continue to raise money for the trip and hope to meet their goal to cover most of the expenses.

On Wednesday, May 9th the confirmation group will lead the Ascension Service.

On Sunday May 20th, the youth will sponsor "Appreciation Sunday" acknowledging all the work and effort our congregation and committees have put forth to make Grace what it is.

New Business

There are openings for a Grace Member to attend the 31st Northern Illinois Synod Assembly on June 15th and 16th. Please see David P. if you are interested.

Next Council Meeting- May 13th, 2018

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Christian

Recycling Sunday—June 17th

Just a reminder that 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.



Grace's Youth will be going to the Youth Gathering this year!

Christy Ziller will be the adult leader in charge of our four Youth who will be making the trip to

Houston, TX. The Gather begins on Wednesday, June 27 and runs through July 1. The Youth going are: Madison Gorges, Jenny Kucharski, Breanna Ray and Jordyn Reents. Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. They have been fundraising for over 2 years now, from hosting the Easter Breakfasts that we have all come to love, to the Little Lutheran Market, Pancake Dinner, Soup-Suppers, for Lent and Advent, the Flamingos, and Coffee Hours. Our Youth would like to thank everyone that helps support them. They are the future leaders of our Church and Country.

Thank You!

Where has the past year gone? Even though it was June 1, 2017, it seems more like just a few months ago that I came to Grace as your interim pastor. It is said that “time flies when your having fun”, and while “fun” may not be a true picture of my time with you, it has been most enjoyable.

I have been blessed by the faith, commitment and caring of the people that I have come to know. Thank you for the gift of your friendship and for being open to the Spirit’s leading in your lives.

What the future holds for Adrienne and I, only the Lord knows. He is the one that truly holds all our tomorrows in His hands. But, what we do know is that we will miss the people of Grace Lutheran in Wilmington. We will continue to hold you in our hearts and prayers.

Again, thank you for your love, support, and prayers. May our Lord continue to bless you in all the exciting time to come.

With God’s love,
Pastor Vidler

Results of the Congregational Meetings held on May 6, 2018

The 1st Meeting held was to take a vote on calling Seth Hecox to be Grace’s new pastor. The vote was unanimous and he will begin the second week of June.

The 2nd Meeting vote authorized the Property Committee and Church Council to get our old boiler replaced before next winter. Our old boiler broke down many times this past winter and trying to bring in heaters was very costly. We have been told it will take 30+ days to take the old boiler out and put the new one in and get it all connected.

Fundraising will be ongoing, as this will be Grace’s single most \$\$ expenditure that the Church has seen in many many years.



In Our Prayers

Members: Dan Bell, Jim Hankins, Roy Hill, Larry Welegala, Lori Domzalski, Jean Goodwin, Ruth Chew, Rev. Guy Warke, & Norma Siebring

Friends and Family of Grace: Lori Jordan (sister of Lynn Christian), Mindy (Deb & Gary Robertson’s daughter), Juanita (Jodi Dzak’s mother), Jack Zdanowski (Warkes’ nephew), Lynn Drozd (niece of Jackie Danalewich), Bishop Jeff Clements, Sharon Cottingham (sister of Jean Peterson), Jeanne Kieffer (friend of the Warkes), Marilyn Butzow (friend of the Warkes), Sarah Hazelrigg (granddaughter of Jean Peterson), Matt Prodehl (son-in-law of Dan Bell)

Home-bound: Theresa Klager (*home*), 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*)

FUNDRAISER

The Property Team is planning on participating in this year’s all town garage sale which runs May 31, June 1 & 2. 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.

Please see Cindy Filas or Deb Robertson.

Annual Synod Assembly ~ June 15th and 16th, Friday and Saturday, is the annual Synod Assembly in Rock Island, IL at Augustana College. This year, representing Grace will be Dave Phillips, Maryann Ricken and Pr. Seth Hecox.

At 1:00pm on Saturday, June 16th, Holy Communion with Ordination will take place in Centennial Hall (Auditorium). Seth Hecox will be one of the newly called Pastors to be ordained. All members are invited to attend. The address of Centennial Hall is: 3703 7th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201.

Women of the ELCA News The ladies got together on May 24th for their Bunco evening. All members present voted to have their "Day at The Races" on Thursday, August 9, 2018. More details will follow.

Missionary for a Day ~ June 2018

06/02	Chris & Lois Smith	Thanks for children and grandchildren
06/10	Kurt & Lynn Stehlik	In Honor of Granddaughter Emma's Birthday
06/11	Kurt & Lynn Stehlik	In Honor of their Wedding Anniversary
06/13	Roy & Bonnie Hill	In Honor of Granddaughter Jessie's Birthday
06/14	Will & Maryann Ricken	In Honor of their Grandchildren
06/15	Roy & Bonnie Hill	In Honor of Granddaughter Kirsten's Birthday
06/17	Women of the ELCA	For Father's Day
06/17	Dan Bell	In Honor of Dan & Mary's Wedding Anniversary
06/17	Darrell & Dianne Carr	In Memory of Norman Gerlach
06/21	Gary Gruhn	First Day of Summer
06/24	Pr. Guy & Helen Warke	In Honor of their 57 th Wedding Anniversary
06/26	Kenneth Wolske	For Kimberly Maxwell

Anniversaries ~ June 2018

06/11	<i>Kurt & Lynn Stehlik</i>	06/17	<i>Dan & Mary Bell</i>
06/17	<i>Red & Sharon Folkestad</i>	06/20	<i>Larry & Rita Welegala</i>
06/20	<i>Ken & Cheryl Winebaugh</i>	06/24	<i>Pr. Guy & Helen Warke</i>
06/28	<i>Will & Maryann Ricken</i>		

Birthdays—June 2018

06/06	Steve Ray	06/11	Dianne Carr	06/11	Dave Phillips
06/12	Charles Schad	06/13	Bonnie Hill	06/14	John O'Brien
06/16	Irving DeWald	06/17	Karen Nielsen	06/21	Jaden Christian
06/22	JoAnn Thompson	06/26	Jean Goodwin	06/27	Jacob McPherson
06/30	Regina Bauer				

Last Wish

A bus carrying only ugly people crashes into an oncoming truck and everyone inside dies. When they get to meet their maker, because of the grief they have experienced, He decides to grant them one wish each before they enter Heaven.

They're all lined up, and God asks the first one what their wish is. "I want to be gorgeous." So God snaps His fingers, and it is done. The second one in line hears this and says, "I want to be gorgeous too." Another snap of His fingers and the wish is granted.

This goes on for a while with each one asking to be gorgeous but when God is halfway down the line, the last guy in the line starts laughing. When there are only ten people left, this guy is rolling on the floor, laughing his head off.

Finally, God reaches this last guy and asks him what his wish will be. The guy eventually calms down and says: "Make 'em all ugly again."

Afraid of the Dark

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mama, I don't want to go out there. It's dark."

The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you."

The little boy looked at his mother real hard and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?" "Yes, I 'm sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him," she said.

The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

Practicing What You Preach

An honest man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman hit the roof, and the horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, and photographed, and then placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car!"